

Submitter: David Vernier

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On
Capital Construction

Measure, Appointment or SB5506
Topic:

Dear Senate President Wagner, Speaker Fahey, and members of the Oregon State
Legislature,

I write in support of the Oregon State University STEM Learning and Research
Center capital project proposal. This project will support the basic science education
of all students at Oregon State University, including future physicists, chemists,
engineers, teachers, business people, and even artists and writers. It will also include
laboratory space for physics research that is directly related to Oregon's economic
development, including research in key areas such as on materials used for clean
energy and semiconductors.

I am a proud alumnus of Oregon State University. I got my master's degree in 1976
from Oregon State, before I started teaching science in Hillsboro. The training I got
there helped make me a better teacher. Eventually, my teaching experiences led to
the formation of Vernier Science Education.

We work with educators all the time and we know STEM education is changing. The
small-group experiential learning that is increasingly the norm at OSU boosts student
engagement and success significantly. This project will allow that mode of instruction
to be expanded to all introductory physics classes as well as a number of others. For
many years we have supported the OSU program, which pays undergraduate
students to mentor their peers. This program will allow for the expansion of this
program, as well. I cannot say enough about the likely impact of this project.
Enrollments at OSU and in engineering and science have been increasing steadily,
and this project will allow all of those students to take their basic science courses in
the most engaging and success-promoting mode possible.

Sincerely,

David L. Vernier, MS, 1976
Portland