

Allison Barr  
OSU-Cascades – ASCC  
Bend, Oregon

April 1, 2025

Senate President Rob Wagner  
Speaker Julie Fahey  
Senator Kayse Jama, Senate Majority Leader  
Representative Ben Bowman, House Majority Leader  
Senator Daniel Bonham, Senate Republican Leader  
Representative Christine Drazan, House Republican Leader  
Senator Kate Lieber, Co-Chair Ways & Means Committee  
Representative Tawna Sanchez, Co-Chair Ways & Means Committee  
Representative Rob Nosse, Co-Chair Ways & Means Subcommittee on Capital Construction  
Senator Fred Girod, Co-Chair Ways & Means Subcommittee on Capital Construction

Oregon State Capitol  
900 Court St. NE  
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Senate President Wagner; Speaker Fahey; Leaders Bonham, Bowman, Drazan and Jama;  
Ways & Means & Co-Chairs Lieber and Sanchez; and Capital Construction Co-Chairs Girod and  
Nosse:

I am a current student at OSU-Cascades, studying Human Development and Family Sciences. I write to urge your support for Oregon State University-Cascades' request for \$42 million in state funding for land reclamation and the completion of the Student Health and Recreation Center. That \$42M will match \$22M from the university and \$20M paid by student fees. Students feel so passionately about the need for the facility that they voted to approve those fees (and have been paying into the fund) since 2017. This project is pivotal not only for the success of OSU-Cascades but for the continued growth of our region's economy and workforce.

I chose OSU-Cascades because of the abundant community connections and the individualized education made possible by small class sizes and research opportunities. My experience here has allowed me to engage deeply in meaningful work. I currently conduct research with the Central Oregon Health Council and am about to begin a project with St. Charles Hospital in Bend, Oregon. Additionally, serving as the Vice President of the Student Government has given me firsthand insight into the challenges and needs of my fellow students. One of the greatest unmet needs is a space to support student well-being, a place to simply exist, recharge, and recreate.

OSU-Cascades is already providing an invaluable education, but without a proper health and recreation facility, many of us are left without access to the wellness resources that are essential for our academic progress. Studies show that having access to physical and mental health services significantly improves retention, graduation rates, and GPAs, particularly for first-generation students like myself. The new center will make a huge difference in ensuring that we have the support we need to succeed.

Additionally, the university's goal of increasing enrollment to 2,200 students by 2030 will require more space, housing, and resources. The land remediation efforts supported by this funding are crucial to the long-term success of OSU-Cascades and the broader Central Oregon community. This is an early and necessary step in building the infrastructure that will educate future generations of Central Oregonians and contribute to a well-prepared workforce for our region. The land reclamation work will provide the necessary infrastructure to meet that demand, including housing for students who are facing rising costs in Central Oregon.

I urge you to support this funding request and ensure that future students like myself have the resources and opportunities we need to succeed.

Sincerely,  
Allison Barr  
Human Development and Family Sciences Major  
Eugene, OR

Cc:

Senator Anthony Broadman  
Senator Diane Linthicum  
Senator Mike McLane  
Representative Vikki Breese-Iverson  
Representative Jason Kropf  
Representative Emerson Levy  
Representative Mark Owens  
Representative Werner Reschke