

Ana Laura Jacuinde Caballero
Oregon State University Cascades Student
Bend, OR

April 5th, 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:

My name is Ana Laura Jacuinde and I am a current student at OSU-Cascades, studying Business Administration. 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.

Being a student at OSU- Cascades has made a huge impact on my life. I am the eldest daughter from an immigrant family, and having to navigate the U.S. education system all by myself was not easy, let alone being first generation to attend college. OSU honored me with the presidential scholarship which made it possible for me to attend this university. OSU- Cascades was perfect for me to have the resources I needed to succeed as a first-generation student, such as TRIO, as

well as that small community feel that I was used to in my hometown, which was a small town in rural Oregon. OSU has also always shown support to my own hometown community through programs such as 4-H and OSU Juntos, from which my family and I greatly benefited, as well as camps over the summer held at OSU- Cascades to help middle and high school students have a feel for what college life is like, which I also got to participate in while growing up in Central Oregon.

OSU-Cascades is already providing an invaluable education for myself and my peers, 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 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,

Ana Laura Jacuinde Caballero
Business Administration Student
Prineville, 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