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I am a current student at OSU-Cascades, studying Human Development and Family Sciences with a Natural Resources minor. 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 am a junior and I came to OSU-Cascades because I liked the small campus size and class sizes. Since I started here, I have learned so much about our campus and how it started. I joined Student Government a year ago, and I have loved it. During the past year, I have worked on getting students informed about what is happening on our campus. For the Student Health and Recreation Center, the one that we currently have is very small and it always crammed. Having money would greatly help with the construction. I won't be able to enjoy it as I will be graduating next year, but I know that I would have used it a lot if I did have it. I pay for a membership at another gym that is bigger. With the Student Health and Recreation Center, many students will not have to pay for memberships and would greatly help with the monthly costs outside of our tuition.

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 many of my friends. 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,  
Ashlin Leiser  
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