

Carter Herigstad
OSU-Cascades - ASCC
Bend, Oregon

April 2, 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 biochemistry and molecular biology. 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 for many reasons. The three most prevalent reasons are that OSU is a well-respected college with a degree that aligned with my career path. I come from a very small school where there was always a teacher that was available to give you help one-on-one. I saw that OSU-Cascades would likely be able to provide a similar experience. So far, I have had great professors that always have time to help. Alongside that I enjoy being active both outdoors and indoors. Bend has much to offer in the realm of outdoor activities and I have enjoyed utilizing my free time to explore.

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

Carter Herigstad
OSU-Cascades - ASCC
Bend, Oregon

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 me have the resources and opportunities we need to succeed.

Sincerely,
Carter Herigstad
Biochemistry and molecular biology
Perrydale, Oregon

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