



Portland State
UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF THE ARTS
SCHOOL OF MUSIC & THEATER

May 1, 2025

To: Co-Chair Fred Girod
Co-Chair Rob Nosse
Members of the Subcommittee on Capital Construction

RE: Testimony in Support of SB 5506 – PSU’s Performing Arts and Culture Center

Dear Co-Chairs Girod and Nosse, and Members of the Subcommittee,

My name is Dr. Chuck Dillard, and I serve as Director of the School of Music & Theater at Portland State University. I write in strong support of PSU’s request for \$85 million in Article XI-G bonds to help fund the Performing Arts and Culture Center (PACC). This visionary project is essential not only for our students and faculty, but for the revitalization of downtown Portland and the cultural future of our state.

As the largest school of music and theater in Oregon, our programs continue to grow in both enrollment and impact. However, we are held back by serious infrastructure challenges: inadequate classroom space, outdated equipment and instruments, and a lack of rehearsal and performance space for major ensembles such as band, orchestra, and jazz. We also face an insufficient number of faculty and staff offices, which will only become more limiting as our programs expand. These deficiencies compromise our ability to deliver a 21st-century arts education.

The PACC will transform our capacity to serve students and the broader community. It will create state-of-the-art classrooms, performance venues, and collaborative spaces –providing students with the tools, spaces, and learning environments they need to thrive. It will support outreach to Oregon’s K-12 students, elevate regional arts engagement, and ensure that PSU remains a central force in training the next generation of creative professionals.

This is also a moment for Portland. The PACC, in partnership with the renovation of the Keller Auditorium, will anchor a new performing arts and education district in the heart of downtown. It will bring jobs, attract investment, and spark renewed energy in our city’s cultural and economic life.

I urge you to fully fund PSU's \$85 million request. Let's invest in the infrastructure our students deserve, in the vitality of our downtown, and in Oregon's cultural future.

Thank you for your time and for your service to the State of Oregon.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Chuck Dillard", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Dr. Chuck Dillard
Director, School of Music & Theater
Portland State University