

Submitter: Sara James

On Behalf Of: Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On Capital Construction

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB5506

Dear Co-Chair Fred Girod, Co-Chair Rob Nosse, and Members of the Subcommittee on Capital Construction,

My name is Sara James, and I am an aerial instructor and performer who has been part of Portland's vibrant performing arts community for many years. I'm writing today to voice my strong support for Portland State University's request for \$85 million in Article XI-G bonds to help fund the Performing Arts and Culture Center (PACC).

As an artist and educator, I know how powerful the performing arts can be—not just to inspire and entertain, but to build community, teach discipline and collaboration, and spark creativity in ways that ripple far beyond the stage or studio. The PACC represents a transformative opportunity for both Portland's arts ecosystem and the next generation of artists and arts professionals.

This project will:

- Expand access to performance and rehearsal spaces for local artists and companies, especially those doing nontraditional work like aerial and physical theater
- Support PSU students with state-of-the-art facilities and meaningful, hands-on learning opportunities in performance, production, and arts management
- Bring people back into downtown Portland with performances and events that energize the city and make it safer and more inviting
- Create thousands of good jobs, from construction to arts programming to hospitality
- Strengthen Portland's reputation as a creative capital and inclusive cultural destination

This isn't just about a new building—it's about investing in a more vibrant, accessible, and resilient future for Portland's arts scene and for PSU's role in shaping that future.

Please fully fund PSU's \$85 million request. Let's give artists, students, and our entire community a space worthy of their talent and potential.

Thank you for your time and commitment to Oregon's future.

Best,

Sara James