



GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

TESTIMONY RELATED TO UNIVERSITY CAPITAL REQUESTS

Offered by John Frohnmayer

Co-Chair Nosse, Co-Chair Girod and members of the Capital Construction Subcommittee:

My name is John Frohnmayer. I grew up in the Rogue Valley, and to my delight, after returning to live here three years ago, I find that Southern Oregon University is the leader in a creative community that has few rivals in the United States. I say this not just from my experience as Chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts, but from teaching and lecturing at more than 120 colleges and universities in the years since my experience in Washington, D.C.

I see the student excitement, the joy of learning, of collaboration, of exploration, of intellectual risk-taking. I see the energy streaming from the campus to the cities of Ashland, Talent, Phoenix and Medford. Southern Oregon University is truly a model of education, and its creativity is the currency of the 21st century.

You are being asked to support this creative juggernaut. Your support of SOU's Creative Industries Project, which is the HECC's #2 ranked capital proposal, will enable:

- A sound stage, screening room, computer labs for music production, and spaces for teaching the business of music. It is no secret that music production is a hugely profitable and rewarding business.
- Preservation and upgrading of the Recital Hall and adjacent practice rooms and classrooms. The recital hall is in constant demand with world-class concerts and productions, including, this spring, a knock your socks off production of Verdi's Requiem featuring professional soloists, community singers and musicians, and University students. This kind of community outreach pays huge dividends to everyone involved. It demands and deserves state-of-the-art electronics, acoustics and HVAC equipment.
- Expansion and support of a cinema and media program ranked among the best in the country.

Southern Oregon University's request is worthy of your support. I commend it to you without reservation.

John Frohnmayer

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