

Name: Whitney McFarlane
Organization: OSU-Cascade, ASCC
Location: Bend, Oregon

February 15, 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 Political and Social Science. 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.

While I am an out-of-state student who has less connections within central Oregon. I am incredibly passionate about the future of OSU-Cascades. I grew up partially in Eugene and with all of my family from all over Oregon, I have always wanted to come back to Oregon and settle down. I am so fortunate to be able to afford an out-of-state education and live where I have always wanted to live. OSU-Cascades holds a special place in my heart. As the ASCC (student government) President, I get to hear students share their experiences at OSU-Cascades. Students love the campus in Bend because of the community it creates, the connections they find, and the opportunities that come from a close knit community.

OSU-Cascades provides students with an invaluable education. However, without a proper health and recreation facility, many of us are left without access to the wellness resources that

are essential for thriving in our academic programs. Students and humans in general perform better academically when their physical, emotional, and mental health can be taken care of. 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,
Whitney McFarlane
Political and Social Science

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