



Joint Committee on Capital Construction

Oregon State Legislature
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Support for Western Oregon University's Capital Construction Projects: Data Center and Performing Arts Renewal

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

On behalf of the City of Monmouth, I am writing to express our strong support for Western Oregon University's two proposed capital construction projects currently under consideration, the new Data Center and the Performing Arts Renewal. As a city that is home to and deeply intertwined with WOU, we understand the vital role the university plays not only in educating students but also in sustaining and enriching our broader community.

The proposed **Data Center** is a critical infrastructure upgrade that will enhance the university's technological capabilities, improve data security, and ensure resilient and sustainable operations well into the future. The current data center is located in an old masonry structure that lacks sufficient HVAC, dust contract, and seismic safety features This investment is essential for supporting modern academic research, remote learning infrastructure, and operational efficiency. Additionally, the Data Center will serve as a regional asset, enhancing emergency preparedness and digital connectivity that benefits both the university and the city at large.

Equally important are the **Performing Arts Renewal**, which will revitalize aging facilities and create more accessible, state-of-the-art spaces for students, faculty, and the public. These improvements will directly benefit hundreds of students in the arts, while also serving as a cultural hub for Monmouth and surrounding communities. The performing arts are a key driver of community engagement and economic activity, drawing residents and visitors to local performances, events, and educational programs.

Both projects align with statewide goals of sustainability, accessibility, and educational excellence. Furthermore, they represent an investment in equity by ensuring that students from all backgrounds have access to high-quality facilities that support their academic and personal growth.



Western Oregon University is a cornerstone of Monmouth's identity and economic vitality. These capital projects will enhance the university's ability to fulfill its mission, while also delivering long-term benefits to our community in the form of jobs, innovation, cultural enrichment, and resilience.

We respectfully urge the Legislature to prioritize funding for these essential projects. Thank you for your consideration and for your continued support of Oregon's public universities and the communities they serve.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rochelle Roaden".

Rochelle Roaden
City Manager
City of Monmouth