



Office of the President

May 6, 2025

Honorable Members Oregon Senate Education Committee  
Oregon State Capitol  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301

**RE: Support for HB 2649**

Dear Chair Frederic, Vice Chair Weber and Members of the Senate Education Committee,

On behalf of Eastern Oregon University, I am writing to express our strong support for House Bill 2649, which authorizes the governing boards of certain public universities—including EOU—to establish a tuition rate for qualifying students participating in programs developed to cooperate in higher education and economic development with countries located in East Asia.

This legislation is a strategic step toward enhancing Oregon's global engagement and fostering economic development. By allowing institutions like EOU to set tuition rates equivalent to the average in-state tuition for qualifying students from East Asia, HB 2649 positions our university to attract a diverse student body, enrich the educational experience for all students, and strengthen international partnerships.

The bill permits the establishment of separate fees for services used by these students and outlines requirements for student qualification, ensuring that the program is accessible and sustainable.

HB 2649 will not only benefit the participating students but also contribute to the broader goals of cultural exchange, academic collaboration, and economic growth within our region and the state of Oregon and internationally increase visibility for Oregon as a cultural and economic driver.

We respectfully urge the Senate Education Committee to support HB 2649 and advance this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Kelly A. Ryan, Ph.D.  
President  
Eastern Oregon University