



March 26, 2013

The Honorable Peter Courtney, Senate President
The Honorable Tina Kotek, House Speaker
The Honorable Richard Devlin, Co-Chair
The Honorable Peter Buckley, Co-Chair
The Honorable Fred Girod, Co-Chair
900 Court Street NE
H-178 State Capitol
Salem, OR 97301-4048

Dear Leadership and Co-Chairs:

Eastern Oregon University, Oregon Institute of Technology, Portland State University and University of Oregon request funding for four capital projects. These projects were included in the Oregon State Board of Higher Education's recommended funding list to the Governor.

Nature of the Request

The universities are requesting: \$28,375,000 in Article XI-G bonds, \$4,000,000 in Article XI-Q bonds, \$2,000,000 in Article XI-M bonds, and \$2,000,000 in Article XI-F bonds. These funds would be matched by \$28,375,000 in private funds to complete the capital projects. These projects call for adding more than 200,000 square feet of new space and renovating more than 50,000 square feet of existing space at two universities to help achieve the state's 40-40-20 goal. The projects would also complete more than \$16,000,000 of deferred maintenance at Portland State University. Finally, the four projects would significantly enhance the state's efforts to focus on STEM programs at universities.

The individual projects are described below.

University of Oregon – Science Commons and Research Library Expansion and Remodel

Project Total: \$16,750,000

Request: \$8,375,000 million in Article XI-G bonds

Private Matching Funds: \$8,375,000

The University of Oregon is a leader in basic science research and training; we are ready to broaden student opportunities for advanced research and problem solving by using generous philanthropy and state bonding capacity to remodel and expand the underground science library to create a new Science Commons and Research Library. Governor Kitzhaber stated that if the legislature decides to allocate additional debt capacity, then this project should be a top priority.

This investment is aligned with 40-40-20 goals, and accommodates modern instruction for the growing population of students in the science disciplines. With a 71% increase in science majors since 2001, the new Science Commons and Research Library would significantly advance the quality of instruction, research, and opportunities for discovery available to UO students by adding more seating capacity, a new digital technology lab, connectivity to a global network of scientists, teaching spaces that would accommodate data-intensive disciplines and collaborative learning, and visualization capabilities to accelerate understanding of complex problems. In total, this project would remodel 30,000 gross square feet and expand the library by 3,500 gross square feet.

Much to the generosity of Lorry Lokey's foundation, half of the project costs (\$8,375,000) would be funded by private sources that are pledged or in hand. The planning phase of this project has been completed; it is ready for design and implementation if awarded bonding capacity. We are excited about the opportunity the Science Commons presents for students, the community, and UO as a leader in scientific discovery.

Oregon Institute of Technology "Oregon Tech" – Cornett Hall Renovation Study Design and Planning (Engineering and Technology Laboratory and Classroom Building Modernization)

Project Total: \$2,000,000

Request: \$2,000,000 in Article XI-Q bonds

Oregon Tech's capital priority is to conduct a comprehensive renovation or replacement of Cornett Hall—a 97,238 GSF single-story building that is the Klamath Falls Campus' industrial and manufacturing education center. Cornett Hall, originally built in 1964, has several building systems currently requiring replacement, including mechanical and electrical systems, interior and exterior finishes, roof system, domestic-water distribution, and the sanitary and storm systems. The building requires correction of seismic structural code-related deficiencies and has serious accessibility problems, primarily due to the finished floor elevation being 5' below the surrounding grade.

As a polytechnic university, Oregon Tech needs Cornett Hall to be a modern lab and classroom building to educate students for technology jobs. Cornett Hall houses Mechanical Engineering Technology, Manufacturing Engineering Technology, Civil Engineering, and the Oregon Renewable Energy Center programs, all of which require state-of-the-art facilities to continue researching new technologies and quality instruction for these rapidly changing industries.

The funds will be used to examine the feasibility of renovating Cornett Hall into a facility that better suits the long-term programmatic needs of Oregon Tech students and industry partners, and compare that cost with the cost of replacing the facility with a new building. The project will include additional

building-condition analyses on Boivin, Semon, and Purvine Halls, as well as an update to Oregon Tech's current Facilities Master Plan. The Cornett Hall project will attract and train Oregonians to fill technology jobs that are in high demand. Delay in commencing the project will push construction and completion back almost 10 years.

Eastern Oregon University – Eastern Learning Commons Planning and Design Development

Project Total: \$2,000,000

Request: \$2,000,000 in Article XI-Q bonds

The Eastern Learning Commons (ELC) will be a multi-use facility and a new technology hub creating a complete learning-centered environment that will be the nexus of technology on campus. It will be designed to provide 3-4 live capture Distance Learning classrooms in a live learn environment, and facilitate quick adaptation to emerging and evolving programs with a particular focus on technology-rich curricula.

The technology hub will meet the University's needs to replace end-of-life infrastructure and provide a fault-tolerant, high capacity network. By combining these elements with a residential facility, EOU will provide a connection for it's on and off campus students enriching the student experience overall. This unique combination of uses will provide students with the social synergy of a 24-hour live-learn environment. The project also includes demolition and site preparation of the existing Hunt Hall, the original women's dorm building that has been partially non-operational since the 1970's due to mechanical and life safety problems that prevent its use as a residential building.

The facility will be designed in two phases. The initial phase will focus on the distance learning and technology components of the project, while the second phase will provide EOU with a replacement of the 100 beds still in use at Hunt Hall, and an additional 50 new beds to accommodate projected growth for on campus students. The facility will be designed to target LEED Gold. Phase I will complete site and structural work, building infrastructure, common space and the learning and technology center. Phase II will complete the residence hall.

Portland State University – The Stott Educational Center Renovations and Deferred Maintenance

Project Total: \$44,000,000

Request: \$20,000,000 in Article XI-G, \$2,000,000 in Article XI-M bonds, and \$2,000,000 in Article XI-F bonds

Private Matching Funds: \$20,000,000

PSU's 30,000 student body is in desperate need of large event and study space. The renovation and expansion of the Stott Center will address both of these needs by creating 36,000 square feet of academic and student study space and a new 5,000-seat multi-use event space. The study space and computer labs in the library lack sufficient capacity to meet the demands of the current student body and will not be able to accommodate any new growth. The Stott Center is adjacent to the library and the new computer labs and study space will serve as an auxiliary to the library.

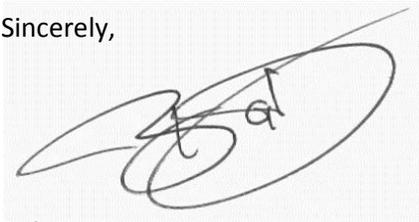
Currently, the largest event space at PSU has a maximum capacity of 500. This is grossly inadequate for a large university. The new event space will allow us to meet campus needs such as orientations while also providing a much needed community space for downtown Portland.

The Stott Center project will pay for \$16,000,000 dollars of deferred maintenance. The leaky roof has forced the cancellation of 73 classes during the past two years. PSU's generous donors will commit \$20 million private dollars to this project to match the state's contribution dollar for dollar. OHSU has committed to a \$1,000,000 investment in the renovation.

Action Requested

EOU, OIT, PSU and UO request that you include authorization for these projects in SB 5506. We are happy to provide any additional materials or answer any questions.

Sincerely,



Bob Davies
President
Eastern Oregon University



Chris Maples
President
Oregon Institute of Technology



Wim Wiewel
President
Portland State University



Michael Gottfredson
President
University of Oregon

CC:

Interim Chancellor Melody Rose
Kirk E. Schueler