December 14, 2017

Chair, Neil Bryant
Higher Education Coordinating Commission
255 Capitol Street NE, Third Floor
Salem, OR 97310

RE: History of OSU-Cascades/Capital Funding Needs

Chair Bryant and Members of the Commission:

OSU-Cascades supporters are advocates for higher education in the Central Oregon region and throughout the entire state of Oregon. A crucial element of a strong statewide system, the OSU-Cascades campus has evolved as a distinct institution, intended primarily to serve a geographically isolated and economically important part of the state. Already, it has achieved core objectives that drove the creation of the only new public or private university in Oregon in over 50 years.

I have personally been deeply involved with OSU Cascades since its creation in 2001 when the state, through the Oregon University System, established the need for higher education in Central Oregon. The need was clearly identifiable at that time and has been become even more evident with the growth in Central Oregon and the continuing place-bound status of many prospective students.

Just as we needed to adapt our thinking about how such an institution would serve Central Oregon students and businesses when setting down this path, I believe it is time for the Higher Education Coordinating Commission to adapt processes addressing the capital needs of this growing institution. This is consistent with the intent in the development stages of this institution and with the HECC's treatment of operating budgets. Additionally, the current rubric scoring system does not adequately address the needs of a new and growing campus, nor the critical importance of providing increased access to higher education in under-served regions of the state.

I urge you to make changes to recognize OSU-Cascades as distinct campus in the capital budget and recognize the needs of a new and growing institution in an underserved region of the state. It is my belief that these changes not only serve students in our region but help the state accomplish the 40/40/20 goals by 2025. Thank you for your thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,

Patricia Moss
Retired CEO Bank of the Cascades
*Bend, OR*