

# CITY OF SPRINGFIELD

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL



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Richard Lariviere  
Office of the President  
1226 University of Oregon  
Eugene OR 97403-1226

**RE: SB559**

Dear President Lariviere,

The City of Springfield endorses your efforts to stabilize university funding and improve accountability and efficiency in higher education through the passage of SB 559 and SJR 20, The New Partnership initiative.

We understand that the university is a driver not only of our local regional economy, but of the state economy. The University of Oregon has a more than \$2 billion impact on the state's economy each year, and directly and indirectly supports more than 13,000 jobs. Each year the UO brings millions of dollars into our economy and educates thousands of students from Springfield and surrounding areas.

There is broad agreement among business community leaders, education professionals, and many elected leaders alike: the status quo in Oregon education is not acceptable. Nearly all agree that the pattern of reduced state support for education must end, that a stable source of funding must be found and that Oregon universities must modernize their governance to provide increased accountability, flexibility, and responsiveness.

In Springfield, we have seen that local control and self determination are important in our ability to govern our city in a way that yields the best results for our citizens. Similar to the New Partnership's proposal to increase University of Oregon accountability to students, taxpayers, and the legislature, Springfield has undertaken efforts to enhance our ability to respond to residents and a changing state and national economy. We believe that changes such as the New Partnership will serve all Oregonians well.

The City of Springfield leadership prides itself on working collaboratively to keep our city moving forward, doing more with less, and always delivering the best services to our citizens. We see that the New Partnership proposal takes the same approach to higher education, ensuring that all Oregonians can access higher education, despite reductions in funding to higher education. Springfield's motto is "proud history, bright future." With the passage of SB 559 and SJR 20, The New Partnership, we believe that the long, proud tradition of excellence at the University of Oregon will be maintained, ensuring a bright future not only for the communities that depend on it, but for Oregon students and taxpayers for decades to come.

Sincerely,

Christine Lundberg  
Springfield Mayor