

OREGON SUSTAINABILITY CENTER

IF YOU WISH TO SPEAK TO CITY COUNCIL, PRINT YOUR NAME, ADDRESS, AND EMAIL.

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**Submittal of Testimony for:
Oregon Sustainability Center
August 4, 2010 hearing by Portland City Council**

**By:
Lindsay A. Desrochers,
Vice President, Finance and Administration
Portland State University**

The Oregon Sustainability Center is aligned with Portland State University's research and instruction goals. Much of our research, which has passed \$50M per year and will soon reach \$60M per year, is committed to sustainable solutions and practices. The OSC will become not only a workplace for many of our most engaged researchers, it will be a living laboratory, and part of a broader neighborhood EcoDistrict, where faculty from PSU and other institutions can study technologies, best practices and the impact of changing behaviors.

Two years ago the university ~~the university~~ received a ten-year, \$25 million, grant from the Miller Foundation. This was a major investment in PSU's academic, research and engagement activities in sustainability. The grant will help support the faculty and researchers work - much of which will take place within this new building and which will leverage the talent that will be assembled there.

The building will also impact PSU's almost 30,000 students. It will house two of the largest general classrooms on our campus. The classrooms will bring literally thousands of learners into the building each day. Our students will experience first hand a world-class net-zero facility, which will be a model for future urban work environments.

The OSC will also advance both the economic development goals of the City and Portland State University. Our university economic development strategy is aligned with the City's strategy in support the growing Clean Technology and Sustainable industries cluster. This industry will directly engage in building and using this facility. The OSC will require the best work of many of our excellent local firms in planning and design, clean energy, green building engineering, and energy efficient technologies. Those firms will address the technical challenges inherent in a prototype building of this kind, and their solutions will become the basis for new

products and services. Put simply, this project will advance the agenda of green building, and in doing so will ensure Portland and Oregon's market leadership in this important and growing global economic export.

Of course, this project will also create jobs and foster jobs growth. Jobs not only during construction, but longer term as the building is filled with university research and instruction, non-profit activities, city and private activities. I believe the building, and Portland State's larger role in promoting sustainability; will become a magnet that continues to draw sustainable industries and significant external research dollars to our state and city.

Part of our role as an urban research university is to work at the intersection private business, non-profit groups, government and education at all levels. We see this building as a place to not only convene these groups, but also to build synergistic relationships between them. Relationships that will leverage the strengths and resources of each sector to address our region's most pressing issues.

The partners in this building will work together on clean energy generation, energy monitoring and efficiency, water conservation and quality, waste reduction and recycling strategies, sustainable construction and urban development, and innovative transportation systems - just to name a few areas.

This work will be both academic and applied, with both public benefit and private sector value created. In short, I believe that the relationships that are being built along with this innovative structure will enhance our opportunities and inform our choices - for decades to come.

Portland State University looks forward to yet another productive City and University partnership beneficial to our shared goals of economic development and a sustainable future.