



February 27, 2008

**Office of the Provost**

Mailcode L101  
3181 S.W. Sam Jackson Park  
Road  
Portland, OR 97239-3098  
tel 503 494-4460  
fax 503 494-8935  
[www.ohsu.edu](http://www.ohsu.edu)

Lesley M. Hallick, Ph.D.  
Provost  
[hallick@ohsu.edu](mailto:hallick@ohsu.edu)

The Honorable Ron Wyden  
Attention: Loretta Smith  
1220 SW 3rd Avenue, Suite 585  
Portland, OR 97204

Dear Senator Wyden:

On behalf of Oregon Health and Science University, I am pleased to write in support of the City of Hermiston's Northeastern Oregon Business and Economic Growth Project. The Project is of particular interest to OHSU because of its potential to help address Oregon's and the nation's current and projected critical shortages of health care professionals, particularly in sparsely populated, rural areas such as Northeastern Oregon.

OHSU is a world-class teaching hospital and research center that draws in students, scientists, and patients from across the country and around the world. At the same time, we retain our strong commitment to serving our local community, and to treating each patient as a unique individual. OHSU's 200-plus outreach programs are partnership-based and focused on enhancing community-based care, serving Oregon's most vulnerable citizens, increasing access to healthcare education, and bringing groundbreaking health research to rural communities

Our primary interest in the Project is its potential to increase the pool of students from eastern Oregon with the necessary prerequisites and education to enter a variety of health care fields, especially nursing. OHSU partners with Eastern Oregon University to offer nursing degree programs, and many students from the region prefer to stay in eastern Oregon to complete their degrees. By providing access to lower-division science classes and other courses in eastern Oregon's fastest growing area, the Project will play an important role in increasing the pipeline of students qualified to continue their studies at EOU or elsewhere.

Any project that will help address Oregon's and the nation's critical shortage of nurses or the projected needs for other health care professionals is an important project. I strongly urge you to support this very important project. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lesley M. Hallick".

Lesley M. Hallick, Ph.D.  
Provost