



THEODORE R. KULONGOSKI
GOVERNOR

November 26, 2008

John Podesta, Co-Chair
Valerie Jarrett, Co-Chair
Pete Rouse, Co-Chair
PRESIDENTIAL TRANSITION TEAM
Washington, DC 20270

Dear Mr. Podesta, Ms. Jarrett and Mr. Rouse:

At a time when our economy needs an immediate investment in job creation and when enrollment in our colleges and universities is reaching rates not seen in many years, the fastest, most effective economic stimulus the federal government can provide to all 50 states is an investment in deferred maintenance projects on university campuses across the nation.

The benefits of modernizing and rebuilding our colleges and universities will be both immediate and long-term.

- We will create good, productive jobs to get Americans back to work on projects that can be up and running within six months.
- We will advance educational opportunities by expanding our capacity to educate the growing numbers of students in our lecture halls, laboratories and libraries.
- We will strengthen our ability to compete in the knowledge-based global economy.
- Finally, because many of these projects involve energy efficiency upgrades, we will provide a model for the investment in energy efficiency needed to transform our economy and reduce our dependence on foreign oil.

For these reasons, I recommend that you consider adding to the list of much-needed infrastructure projects the growing backlog of deferred maintenance on the campuses of our public universities.

In Oregon, for example, the Oregon University System has identified more than \$660 million in deferred maintenance needs, which remain far beyond our ability to address in the current budget climate. These needs are spread statewide among our seven universities and the educational facilities of the Oregon Health and Sciences University.

Our university system has not only tallied these needs, it has also developed a prioritized lists of projects that can be put to bid in short order, thereby employing more Oregonians in family wage jobs and accelerating our efforts to expand the capacity and improve the quality of our institutions of higher education.



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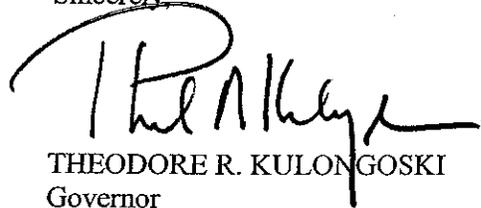
In the Oregon University System, funding of \$106 million for the next round of deferred maintenance projects now on the drawing board would allow us to move forward to activate these projects and the creation of more than 2,000 new jobs by the summer of 2009. A list of these projects is attached hereto.

Also, I understand that systems of higher education in most states are in the same situation with similar plans for addressing deferred maintenance needs that can be implemented quickly. To ensure an accurate list of projects already in the planning stages, I recommend you request each state's list of deferred maintenance projects for their university systems.

On behalf of all Oregonians, I want to express my appreciation and support for the efforts of President-elect Barack Obama and his transition team in moving quickly to advance initiatives that will put Americans back to work and build the foundations for a stronger economy.

We look forward to working with your administration and our Congressional delegation to secure passage of a strong economic stimulus package that includes reinvestments in the hope and opportunity offered by our public colleges and universities.

Sincerely,



THEODORE R. KULONGOSKI
Governor

TRK:tn:lr

c: The Honorable Ron Wyden
The Honorable Gordon Smith
The Honorable Peter DeFazio
The Honorable Earl Blumenauer
The Honorable Darlene Hooley
The Honorable David Wu
The Honorable Greg Walden
United States Senator Elect Jeff Merkley
Congressman Elect Kurt Schrader