January 3, 2017

W. Jason Weiss
Edwards Professor and School Head
Civil and Construction Engineering
101 Kearney Hall
Corvallis, OR 97331

Dear Jason,

We are writing in support of the proposed development of an undergraduate degree program in Architectural Engineering (AE) in the School of Civil & Construction Engineering (CCE) at Oregon State University (OSU). As leaders in the construction industry and active members of the CCE industry advisory board we know the importance of this type of expertise and the demand that exists for graduates with this type of degree. We have appreciated the discussions in the advisory board meetings on this new program. The undergraduate degree that has been envisioned by CCE is refreshing and will surely have an impact on the profession.

It is refreshing to note that the college of engineering is committed to the success of the program and has committed to funding faculty lines to help energize this program. We look forward to the collaborations that have been discussed with other colleges and programs in Oregon. It is also great to hear of the plans to create materials to market the building profession to future students.

AE students would be able to specialize in their discipline while gaining the knowledge and skills to become leaders in the design and construction of green, energy efficient and more complex buildings. The AE program will provide students with breadth and depth in the engineering sciences of buildings and their systems: structural systems; heating, ventilation and air-conditioning (HVAC) systems; electrical and lighting systems. This program will serve as an outstanding compliment to the existing civil engineering and construction engineering and management programs. Graduates of such a program would be uniquely trained to aide in the construction, commissioning and operations of building systems as these systems become increasingly complex.

OSU is currently a leader in the Pacific Northwest in the areas of building construction. The additional course offerings allow the Architectural Engineering degree at OSU to expand its impact of the program.

We look forward to working with the School of Civil and Construction Engineering to develop this program into a world leader that will meet the needs of the construction industry in Oregon and throughout the US.

Best wishes,

Tom Gerding
President
Gerding Companies Inc.

Steve Malany
President
P & C Construction

David Schmidt
Chief Operating Officer
Skanska USA Building