

To: Representative Tobias Read
House Committee on Higher Education, Innovation and Workforce Development
900 Court St NE H-286
Salem, OR 97301

Date: 24 February 2015

From: Dan Dobry, Vice President, Bend Research, Inc.

Subject: Oregon Talent Council (House Bill 2728)

Dear Chair Read and Members of the Committee,

There are innovative, science-driven high tech companies throughout the state of Oregon, and Central Oregon is no exception. Many of these organizations provide services nationally or globally, thus bringing significant outside revenue into the state and local economy. Bend Research, an anchor to Central Oregon's high tech community, is one such organization, bringing in approximately \$50 million a year to Oregon's economy and hundreds of science, engineering, and manufacturing jobs. While the revenue streams may originate outside the state, much of the talent pool making up the staff is and should be local.

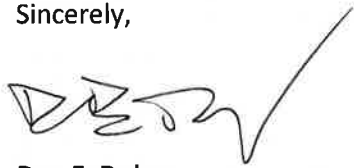
We face several challenges that are shared by high tech and science driven companies in Oregon. Retirement of key personnel, business growth, and evolution of job descriptions that keep us cutting edge and ahead of our national and global competition are all drivers that have us continually looking to add to our staff, with local or regional talent whenever possible.

Skill sets needed by our company and others like it include core sciences, engineering, project management, business operations, computer science, and big data analysis. We have been solid supporters of ETIC as a model for the state to support new initiatives in the field of engineering, and see value in broadening that mission to a wider range of key job skills. [Bend Research supports the Oregon Talent Council \(OTC\).](#)

There are several advantages of building upon the ETIC model and leveraging knowledge of both its successes and challenges. First, the model works. Specifically, for our organization we see value in ongoing initiatives such as OSUs bioengineering program and OHSU's quantitative bioscience and biomedical engineering program, but there are many other key initiatives important to other high tech sectors of the state. Evolution of the curriculum or step changes resulting in new programs are extremely challenging without both industry support and legislative funding of new areas until a program reaches a sustainable level. Second is efficiency. The model works and a unified approach across a broader range of job skills beyond engineering will be leveraged. Third is power in numbers. The result is a unified group, with critical mass, providing input into key talent gaps and needs statewide and across disciplines. This also results in a forum for those outside the metro area to have a voice in these needs.

Oregon's high tech and science driven companies and industries are evolving and growing, and so are the talent needs. Our local and state institutions are key to providing the resources needed. Oregon's institutions deliver a great product in terms of trained students and workers (at least I feel that way, I'm one of them), however needs are changing. Identifying and prioritizing gaps and funding new initiatives is an important role in keeping the quality of the product at a level needed by Oregon's industry. This is a key mission of the OTC and why we support it.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dan E. Dobry', with a long, sweeping flourish extending upwards and to the right.

Dan E. Dobry

Vice President

Bend Research, Inc.