



House Bill 2728A
Joint Committee on Ways and Means
Subcommittee on Education
June 18, 2015

We would like to note the work that has gone into examining and refining and ultimately recommending the transformation of the Engineering and Technology Industry Council (ETIC). The Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) is committed to working with industry and education sector partners to provide needed talent in high demand areas.

Historically, ETIC focused on recommending criteria and measurements used for determining investments in a variety of engineering fields. House Bill 2728A would broaden the possible investments and allow them to develop a Talent Development Plan that the HECC and other agencies can reference in their work on developing training and education enhancements.

Under House Bill 5024, the HECC will incorporate a significant portion of legacy “sustaining” ETIC funds. This transition plan, which includes moving \$24.5M from the Oregon Education Investment Board (OEIB) to the HECC, has been supported by the ETIC, the OEIB, and the HECC. The funding shift was included in the Agency Request Budgets for the OEIB¹ and the HECC. It was put forward in the GRB² and ultimately approved by this Subcommittee in the passage of HECC’s agency budget in HB 5024. In February, the ETIC expressed support for the “rebalancing of the existing portfolio” by shifting \$24.5M to the HECC in testimony³ to the House Higher Education, Innovation and Workforce Development Committee.

ETIC has engaged in significant work not just to rebalance and refocus the Council’s energy on limited duration performance-based contracts to scale talent and workforce programs but to restructure the allocation of sustaining funds. The proposed restructuring in funding has come at a time of systemic change in governance and authority throughout higher education. ETIC itself has made multiple transitions over the past two years, from OUS, to the OEIB and now a proposed reconstitution as the Talent Council and shift to the Employment Department. The HECC has not had the opportunity to fully vet and consider the recommendations of ETIC nor input from

¹ <http://education.oregon.gov/Documents/archive/OEIB%20Agency%20Budget.pdf> (Page 90)

² http://www.oregon.gov/DAS/CFO/docs/budget_policy/2015-17_gb.pdf (Pages B-52 -B-53)

³ <https://olis.leg.state.or.us/liz/2015R1/Downloads/CommitteeMeetingDocument/49258> (Page 1)

other stakeholders. The HECC has committed to a structured process to determine the short and long-term funding allocation system for legacy ETIC “Sustaining” funding⁴ and will use ETIC’s past work as a starting place for this process.

The Commission is grateful for the work and continued collaboration of ETIC or its successor the Talent Council as we engage in the joint process of supporting and enabling greater focus preparing students to meet the demands of a changing 21st century economy.

⁴ <http://education.oregon.gov/Documents/HECC/2015%20Full%20Commission%20Meetings/06.%20June%2011%2c%202015/12.1%20Engineering%20and%20Technology%20Industry%20Council%20%28ETIC%29%20Background.pdf> (Page 6)