

February 1, 2016

The Honorable Lee Beyer, Chair
Senate Business & Transportation Committee
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court Street NE, S-419
Salem, OR 97301

The Honorable Caddy McKeown, Chair
House Transportation & Economic Development Committee
900 Court St NE, H-476
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Senator Beyer and Representative McKeown:

Enclosed please find the report for the pilot Dislocated Worker Training Program (BioCatalyst Advanced Training). This report is being submitted by the Oregon Bioscience Association through the Oregon Business Development Department in accordance with SB 1527 (2014 Session), which established the following requirement:

"The department and a representative of the program shall report, on or before February 1, 2016, to a committee or interim committee of the Legislative Assembly, as appropriate, with subject matter jurisdiction over economic development, business and industry, the status of the pilot program and recommendations for establishing a permanent program.

As further described in the report, this unique pilot program was designed and directly implemented by the Oregon Bioscience Association with businesses in the bioscience industry. Along with addressing the businesses' issue of finding Oregonians with the requisite skills to fill new positions, the program focused on training unemployed or under-employed management professionals, engineers, and project managers attempting to make a career transition, thereby, simultaneously, eliminating the graduates' need for continued unemployment benefits.

Due to the immense success of this pilot program, not only from the businesses' standpoint, but also from the dislocated worker standpoint, the Oregon Business Development Department believes the program warrants support from the Oregon Legislature for the establishment of a permanent program.

Karen Goddin, Assistant Director Economic Strategies & Policy (503-229-6054 karen.goddin@oregon.gov) and I are available to provide any additional information or answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely,



Vince Porter
Interim Director

enclosure

c: Steve Bender, Legislative Fiscal Office
Dennis McNanny, Executive Director, Oregon Bioscience Association