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Senate Committee on Workforce
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court St. NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

To Members of the Senate Committee on Workforce:

On behalf of Mount Hood Community College, I would like to express my support for the Rockwood Rising development project.

This project will allow the college to expand educational and training resources into the Rockwood neighborhood - a young, diverse area with over 25,000 residents within a mile of the site. The college plans to provide a variety of office and classroom space dedicated to the college's Small Business Development Center (SBDC). It will connect small business owners and prospective entrepreneurs to resources to help start or expand business enterprises. We are also pleased to partner to provide healthcare training, which will provide entry level education to become employed in the healthcare field in clinical and hospital settings. Perhaps most importantly, the opportunity to co-locate with other experts in workforce training will provide synergies we have just begun to identify. This will be a good location for workforce and corporate trainings for the job base in West Gresham. There is the potential to expand the college's innovation/ideation program to bring ideas to market. This innovation and workforce training center will be a great compliment to our curriculum.

The college has been a partner in the strategic planning for several years now, and we are very pleased to see the project design fully underway, with construction soon to come. We have been meeting regularly with Gresham staff and partners, most recently at the Mt. Hood Community College Board meeting this month. I would have liked to testify in person, but travel has taken me out of state this week. We look forward to continuing to work with the City of Gresham, and strongly support the efforts of the State of Oregon.

Sincerely,

Debra A. Derr, EdD
President
Mt. Hood Community College

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