



Lake County Board of Commissioners

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Dan Shoun, Chair
Bradley J. Winters, Vice-Chair
Ken Kestner, Commissioner

March 30, 2017

Higher Education and Workforce Committee,

I am writing this letter in support of HB 2531: Oregon's Solution to Pressing Workforce and Poverty Concerns. In my role as Lake County Commissioner I also serve on the Central Oregon Workforce Consortia that oversees our local workforce board, East Cascades Workforce Investment Board.

The East Cascades workforce area spans nearly 30,000 square miles of predominately rural communities east of the cascades. We rely predominately on dwindling federal resources to support workforce development in our area. We see SNAP 50/50 (food stamps) reimbursement from the US Department of Agriculture as a promising resource to support the loss in federal funding for training and employment services for Oregonians living in poverty. The challenge we face in rural Oregon is lack of resources to establish and scale a local matching program.

HB 2531 offers that seed funding to support the training and retraining of low income individuals to both address the shortage of skilled workers our business community is experiencing while simultaneously increasing state revenues through income tax from these individuals when they go to work as a result of training.

We look forward to further discussion of this promising opportunity and support our local board in adding this resource into our aligned and highly leveraged WorkSource system in East Cascades.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dan Shoun".

Dan Shoun
Lake County Board of Commissioners, Chairman