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For public hearing 4/11/2017

To: House Committee on Higher Education and Workforce Development

From: Wallace Dale Corwin

Subject: Proposed amendments to HB 3437

Please amend HB 3437 by adding the following:

Section 2.(1) (h) Since the workforce needs of rural Oregon are diverse, are geographically challenging, have limited educational opportunities, lack diverse industries, and have funding challenges; rural workforce investment boards shall establish models of engaging employers and coordinating workforce development, economic development and education in response to the needs of industry and on behalf of workers seeking good jobs in rural Oregon.

Section 2. (2) (B) (f) Ensure state alignment and coordination with local workforce development board boards in rural Oregon in response to the needs of industry and on behalf of workers seeking good jobs in rural Oregon.

Rural workforce investment boards face unique challenges that require innovative and locally appropriate strategies to be successful in coordinating workforce development, economic development and education in response to the needs of rural industry and on behalf of rural worker seeking good jobs in rural Oregon.

Since the local rural workforce investment boards have the best understanding of the needs in each of these regions focus on local strategies must be developed and implemented. What works in large metropolitan areas may not work in these diverse rural areas of Oregon.

Thank you,