



May 11, 2017

State of Oregon
Joint Committee on Ways and Means
Oregon State Capitol
Salem, OR 97301

To: Senate Co-Chair Rep. Nancy Nathanson, House Co-Chair Chair Holvey and Members of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means:

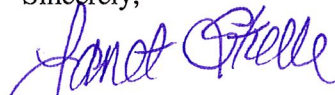
Re: SB 5505

The Albany Area Chamber represents 560 businesses with over 21,000 employees in the Albany area. The past four years the Chamber has worked closely with local industries, K-12 school districts and Linn Benton Community College (LBCC) to develop the Pipeline workforce development program that is helping direct and train the future workforce in Linn and Benton Counties.

Our region has over 1100 family-wage jobs coming on line in the next 5 years and the technical skills training these employees need to be successful are being provided by LBCC. The voters in Linn and Benton counties gave their support to LBCC for expansion and retrofitting classrooms by approving a General Obligation Bond. This bond provides the \$7.5M in matching funds for capital construction that would be used to upgrade and expand the Career Technical facilities at LBCC. In addition the City of Albany is providing \$2.9M for equipment purchases at LBCC that will be used to enhance the CTE programs at LBCC.

The Albany Area Chamber is excited to be a community partner with LBCC and others to enhance the CTE educational and training opportunities in our area. We know that investing in LBCC is vital to our workforce needs. We respectfully ask that you help strengthen Oregon's economy by supporting SB 5505 and providing LBCC the \$7.5M they need in matching capital construction funds.

Sincerely,


Janet Steele
President