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clpud.org

May 10, 2017

To: Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Capital Construction

From: Debra Smith, General Manager

Submitted to: jwmcc.exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov

Re: SB 5505 In Support of: Oregon Coast Community College (OCCC), Lincoln County Workforce Education and Resiliency Center, \$8 million Article XI-G State Bonding (to be matched dollar for dollar by local resources).

Dear Co-Chairs Girod and Holvey; Members of the Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Capital Construction:

The Central Lincoln People's Utility District would like to add its strong support for Oregon Coast Community College's planned new Workforce Education and Resiliency Center at the college's Newport campus.

Central Lincoln is Oregon's fourth-largest electric utility, serving more than 55,000 Oregonians across a diverse area of 700 square miles, encompassing ten cities, and parts of four counties on the Central Coast. While we are a governmental entity, and not-for-profit, we pay property taxes and franchise fees in the communities we serve, and we are one of the larger employers on the Oregon Coast. Our entry-level jobs, which put employees on track to earn their union cards and "journeyman" status in our trades of line, meter, communications, and substation workers, require significant skills in math and electronics. We have an in-house tutoring program provided by volunteers, but it would be considerably more efficient and effective to have a centralized program at OCCC which could serve our workers, and those of other trades employers on the coast with OCCC's proposed Applied Technology (Trades) program. Our jobs offer primary-level wages, and most of our employees are able to afford to purchase homes here.

We are also excited about the secondary role of the building—to serve as a resiliency and recovery center for Lincoln County south of the Yaquina Bay Bridge in the event of a catastrophic event. Disaster preparedness is one of Central Lincoln's top priorities, and we are currently investing \$27 million in a relocated Operations Facility as our current facility is located in the tsunami inundation zone (TIZ). We are very pleased to note OCCC's proposed new facility will be out of the TIZ as well. This facility is an exciting project, and I urge you to give it your very strong support.

Thank you for your consideration of this project

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Debra J. Smith".

Debra J. Smith
General Manager