



April 11, 2017

Dear Joint Ways and Means Committee Members,

We support the request from Linn-Benton Community College for \$7.5M in capital construction funds. LBCC is committed to meeting the workforce needs of our region. Our region has more than 1,000 jobs to fill in the coming five years in family-wage technical positions.

To meet this demand, LBCC needs to expand and upgrade its Career Technical Education (CTE) offerings in welding, machine tool, nondestructive testing, and advanced manufacturing, (Mechatronics) on their Albany campus. These specific offerings were developed through a collaboration of local businesses both large and small, the City of Albany (a \$2.9 million grant), the City of Lebanon (a \$1.8 million grant), Linn County and the Greater Albany Public School system. The two grants are from local economic development funds because the cities feel investing in LBCC will help the most businesses and therefore their communities.

Also, the voters in Linn and Benton counties have shown their support for LBCC through approval of a \$34 million general obligation bond, part of which provides the matching funds that are required by the requested capital construction funds.

Investing in LBCC is critical to meet the workforce needs of industry, thereby strengthening Oregon's economy. In short, investing in an education at LBCC is funding jobs in our area and generating revenue for the state. We ask for your support of HB 5505.

Respectfully submitted,

**OFD Foods, LLC**

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James Merryman".

James Merryman  
President & CEO

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Damon".

John Damon  
Sr. VP, Manufacturing, Engineering & Supply Chain