

**Hatfield Marine Science Center**

Director's Office

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May 10, 2017

**To:** Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Capital Construction

**From:** Robert K. Cowen, Director

**Submitted to:** [jwmcc.exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov](mailto:jwmcc.exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov)

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

Dear Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Capital Construction

As Director of the Hatfield Marine Science Center (HMSC), I am in full support of Oregon Coast Community College's planned new **Workforce Education and Resiliency Center** at their Newport campus.

The Hatfield Marine Science Center advances the mission of Oregon State University and its partner agencies through collaboration and innovation. As OSU's campus for research, education, and outreach in marine and coastal sciences, and through its many partnerships, HMSC improves scientific understanding of marine systems, coastal processes and resources, and applies this knowledge to social, economic, and environmental issues. The OCCC is one of HMSC's key academic partners and as such serves as an important pipeline in the education of coastal residents passing from K-12 through to 2 and 4 year college work, as we all strive to provide a trained and educated workforce for the region.

OCCC's new Workforce Education building will help to address critical workforce gaps in Lincoln County and the surrounding region. Envisioned career focused education programs for new facility align well with Lincoln County workforce gaps in living wage jobs essential to the economic and civic vitality of our region. These programs include Emergency Preparation & Management; Maritime Technicians; Applied Technology (Trades); and P-12 Teacher Education.

We are also strongly in support of the secondary role of the building, to serve as a resiliency and recovery center for Lincoln County south of the Yaquina bridge in the event of a catastrophic event. The building itself, along with the trained professionals and students that may be at the college at the time of an event, could be essential in immediate and longer term recovery. This is the type of visionary and collaborative thinking envisioned in the Oregon Resilience Plan (2013), which states *planning for*

*reconstruction and recovery must be done now to provide a strategic vision for restoring the economy and livability of the Oregon coast.*

We appreciate your efforts toward this endeavor

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert K. Cowen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Robert K. Cowen  
Director