



**May 10, 2017**

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

**FROM:** Heather DeSart, Executive 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,

Northwest Oregon Works is in full support of Oregon Coast Community College's planned new Workforce Education and Resiliency Center at their Newport campus.

Established in July 2015, Northwest Oregon Works focuses on workforce development in the Northwest Area which includes Benton, Clatsop, Columbia, Lincoln, and Tillamook counties. As the designated local workforce development board, NOW oversees and coordinates the public workforce system within the five-county area. Our mission is to advance a collaborative, solutions-based workforce system that positively impacts the prosperity of our communities by meeting the needs of business and industry through a skilled workforce.

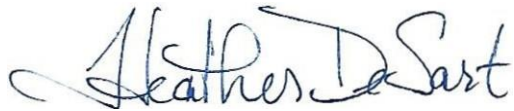
OCCC's new Workforce Education building will help to address critical workforce gaps in Lincoln County and the surrounding region. Envisioned career focused education programs for new facility align well with Lincoln County workforce gaps in living wage jobs essential to the economic and civic vitality 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 that reads "Heather DeSart". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, decorative flourish at the beginning.

Executive Director, Northwest Oregon Works