



Community and Economic Development

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May 11, 2017

To: Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Capital Construction

From: Cascades West Council of Governments, Community and Economic Development

Submitted to: 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 (matched dollar for dollar by local resources).

Dear Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Capital Construction,

The Oregon Cascades West Council of Governments (OCWCOG), department of Community and Economic Development is in full support of Oregon Coast Community College's planned new Workforce Education and Resiliency Center at their Newport campus. The Community and Economic Development Services Department provides the region's comprehensive economic development strategy, works on priority efforts under a regional action plan, and promotes coordinated economic development efforts. OCWCOG works with key partners in Lincoln County to support workforce development and economic resilience and recognizes the key importance of OCCC's proposed expansion.

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*. This also supports a forthcoming four-county effort in our region to address economic development recovery in the event of a catastrophic event.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Phil Warnock".

Phil Warnock
Oregon Cascades West Council of Governments
Community and Economic Development, Director

MEMBER GOVERNMENTS — COUNTIES: Benton, Lincoln and Linn **CITIES:** Adair Village, Albany, Brownsville, Corvallis, Depoe Bay, Halsey, Harrisburg, Lebanon, Lincoln City, Lyons, Millersburg, Monroe, Newport, Philomath, Scio, Siletz, Sweet Home, Tangent, Toledo, Waldport, Yachats **OTHER:** Confederated Tribes of Siletz, and Port of Newport