


Dear Co-Chairs Hass and Barnhart and Members of the Joint Committee on Tax Reform,

There are only 4 weeks left for our members of the Oregon Legislature to demonstrate your commitment to our public education system. As a member of the Clatsop Community College Board of Directors, I am counting on you to resolve Oregon's \$1.4 billion budget deficit by passing new revenue legislation. Without such bold leadership from our elected officials, the deficit could raise college tuition rates across the state and push higher education further out of reach for our current and prospective students.

You, our elected leaders, must choose between passing a new revenue package and holding corporations accountable, or continuing the status quo, which unfairly balances our state budget on the backs of students, families and local businesses. For me, the choice is an easy one. Since Oregon has one of the lowest corporate tax rates in the nation, our legislators have a responsibility to make sure large corporations pay their fair share. Oregon is booming and we cannot afford cuts to education that put our bright future at risk.

With our current budget, students at our Community Colleges are genuinely concerned about the cost of their academic futures and whether they will need to put their education on hold. Oregonians value education and our state's budget should reflect that. It is now up to you, our legislators, to take decisive action and adequately invest in our schools and colleges.

Thank you,

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