



Clatsop Community College

June 23, 2017

Co-Chair Senator Rod Monroe
Co-Chair Representative Barbara Smith Warner
Education Subcommittee of the Joint Committee on Ways & Means

Regarding Support for Senate Bill 867

Co-Chairs Sen. Monroe and Rep. Smith Warner, and members of the Subcommittee,

Clatsop Community College continually works to build an educational community that provides open access to quality learning opportunities that prepares the people of our region for productive participation in civic, cultural, social and economic life. We actively work to build partnerships with private sector businesses to help inform our programming so we can be sure students leave our programs with the skills and abilities to succeed in the workforce.

As a coastal based college, and one of the few educational institutions in Oregon to offer Maritime Science programming, we are consistently working to enhance and add to our curriculum to better support the needs of maritime industry, which is booming around the Pacific Northwest and the world. Entry level mariners make \$18.36/hour, while experienced mariners can make over \$70,000 per year depending on their schedule. Despite the relatively high wages and the demand, we often hear about port positions staying vacant for months, even years, and local maritime companies traveling to other states to recruit qualified personnel.

At Clatsop Community College, we're committed to making these jobs accessible to more Oregonians, but we're just one piece of the puzzle. We need the State of Oregon to stand with us in recognizing and supporting the industry. This is why we strongly support the passage of Senate Bill 867, which will create a task force to define the many aspects of the maritime sector in Oregon. Upon meaningful analysis, we are confident that the State will see a vibrant, growing sector that merits support so more Oregonians can access maritime jobs.

Senate Bill 867 is a part of a multi-pronged strategy developed by a coastal working group of elected officials, private sector businesses, education institutions, and public agencies convened by Lincoln County Commissioner Doug Hunt to address the workforce needs of the maritime sector. We are honored to be a part of this working group, which is working to raise awareness about the sector, build data as needed, and take action to strengthen and augment the educational pathways and training opportunities to prepare Oregonians for in-demand jobs in the maritime sector.

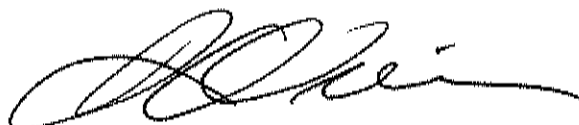
The State of Washington recently underwent a similar effort to examine and define the sector, which has allowed them to accurately measure the economic impact the industry makes in their state. They've found that the maritime sector in Washington:

- Contributes more than \$15 billion in gross business income;
- Directly employs 57,700 people;
- Is responsible for \$30 billion in economic activity; and
- Pays workers an average of \$70,800 - \$20,000 higher than the state average salary of about \$50,000¹.

Through these efforts, Washington also identified the need for a workforce trained in marine sciences as well as aerospace, software, hardware, electronics and even nanotechnologies. In examining, and ultimately supporting more training opportunities, the State of Washington has been able to help fill in-demand jobs and put more Washingtonians to work in good jobs.

Our state's failure to recognize the maritime sector is a missed opportunity that should be rectified as quickly as possible. The longer we wait to work with this important industry, the more chances we miss to attract and train young Oregonians for high-paying careers in the maritime industry. Please change this trajectory by voting yes on Senate Bill 867.

Thank you for your time and consideration,



Kristen Wilkin
Dean of Workforce Education and Training
Clatsop Community College

¹ Washington Department of Commerce - www.commerce.wa.gov/growing-the-economy/key-sectors/maritime/