



CONSUMERS POWER INC.

March 25, 2019

Dear Members of the Ways and Means Committee,

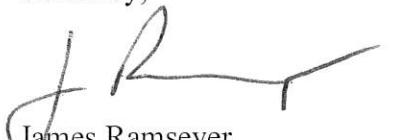
Consumers Power Inc. is an electric cooperative serving over 23,000 members in Benton, Lane, Lincoln, Linn, Marion and Polk counties. We employ approximately 70 full time employees of which 80% rely on STEM, CTE or other vocational training.

LBCC is extremely valuable to our business and the region. We need people with education and training beyond high school but not necessarily a typical 4-year degree. LBCC provides excellent training for the people in our communities. The return on investment for students graduating from their programs far out way most 4-year degrees. LBCC produces graduates who begin their careers making excellent incomes, avoid accumulating large amounts of student debt, and stay in our local communities as tax payers.

If we truly want to continue our states economic growth, and provide all Oregonians a pathway to success, we must fully fund our community colleges and stop placing an ever-growing share of the financial burden onto students.

I urge you make funding Oregon's community colleges and the people they serve, a top priority, and support the Higher Education Coordinating Commission recommendation of a \$647M base budget.

Sincerely,



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Director of Member Services

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