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April 10, 2019

Co-Chair Roblan, Co-Chair Smith Warner, Co-Vice Chair Knopp, Co-Vice Chair Smith and Members
of the Joint Committee on Student Success

Subject: Don't Leave College Students Behind in New Education Funding

Legislators have a once-in-decade opportunity to invest in Oregon students and reform Oregon's tax system, but the current plan laid out in House Bill 2019 leaves college students behind.

By 2020, 65 percent of new jobs are expected to require education and training beyond high school. To provide Oregonians the opportunity they need to thrive and for businesses to help grow the economy, we need to support students from cradle to career.

Since Measure 5, Oregon students have seen tuition increases vastly outpace inflation while programs and services have been cut because state investment has fallen further behind. As a result, student debt is higher than it's even been.

In my community where the advanced manufacturing business is growing faster than it has in decades, we need more skilled workers, not fewer, and it is community colleges such as ours that are best positioned to meet those workforce needs, but we need your help.

We urge you to support Governor Kate Brown's call for including post-secondary education in the spending proposal before this committee.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Greg Hamann", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Greg Hamann
President, Linn-Benton Community College