

Chairs, members of the committee, for the record my name is Doug Ford, and I am the Lead Faculty in the Fabrication and Welding Department at Lane Community College.

Our program is vital to so many community members that are young and some not so young. With proper funding, we have a great opportunity to teach people a skilled trade. Skilled trades help brighten people's future and bring hope in uncertain times for themselves and the community they live in. Pride, confidence, critical thinking, self-esteem, and curiosity become real in the CTE programs, creating is a conduit for a better future. As I often tell my students, "Your future you is waiting, practice good habits now so that the future you is pleased and thanks the past you".

Our future is now. Our collective future is now. As a state, as a torn nation, as fellow Oregonians our future is now. Spend the money, Do not save it, everything we do now to improve lives through Career Technical Education of our struggling single moms, debt riddled parents, expectant new students, and wonderful immigrants will bring them knowledge and skills. With this knowledge and skill, they will be able to fill the shoes of the many folks in industry retiring now. We have a massive shortage of welders and skilled trade's persons in Oregon right now, not tomorrow, not next year, now. I have many local companies calling or emailing me desperate for welders, jobs they cannot bid on because they do not have enough people to do the work. The Oregon economy is ready to explode. Why would we want to stop this?

Please, think about this. CCSF (community college support fund) needs to be \$702 million. Due to loss of revenue from other streams, without that level of funding, CCs will see cuts to critical programs and increases of tuition over 3.5%. Communities cannot afford either of these at a time when colleges are relied upon more than ever to get us out of the recession and bring back hope. As teachers, we care day in and day out, we put all we have into our students, in return we ask that you invest now, in us, our students, your daughters, wives, sons, husbands, and friends. The dividends will be greater and more productive than a rainy day.

Thank you.

