



*Since 1980*

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January 30, 2026

To Whom It May Concern:

Today, I am writing to ask for your support of Prosperity Programs SB1512, an investment of \$15 million in the workforce system. I am a member of the local workforce development board and a small business owner who needs their support.

For over 45 years, I have owned and operated a CNC machine shop in Newberg, OR, and each year it gets harder to provide a living wage, stay ahead of the competition, and keep the lights on. The services provided by the workforce system help alleviate this stress.

Without their training courses and grant programs, we would not be able to fill the skills gap that exists in today's manufacturing industry. Skills mastered through workforce training include: Advanced Machining Skills, Blueprint Reading & Creation, Lean Manufacturing, QuickBooks Accounting, Leadership, Management, Microsoft Excel, and many others. We would not be able to provide this training without the workforce system.

The loss of the workforce system will result in the loss of a skilled workforce.

Budgeting \$15 million for workforce in the state is a wise decision and investment.

- For every \$1 invested, Oregon gets \$2.98 back
- Average participant wages are \$22.73 per hour
- 72 percent of employed participants are working full time
- Workforce investments generate new tax revenue while reducing reliance on public benefits

Thank you for your time. Please feel free to reach out if you have additional questions.

Sincerely,

*Alvin Elbert*  
President