

To: Oregon State Legislators

From: Allan Wilson, Oregon Land Use Planner

Date: January 29, 2026

Subject: Support Continued Investment in *Prosperity Programs: SB 1512*

Dear Oregon Legislators,

In this upcoming Session, many competing proposals will come before you. I ask that you keep two things front of mind:

1. Oregon has lost 26,000+ jobs in the past 15 months. Each one of these workers joins the ranks of existing unemployed Oregonians not paying state taxes AND potentially drawing down state benefits at a huge cost of millions of dollars.
2. During a downturn like this, investing to reverse that trend is key. Getting people back to work is a smart investment. It gets people paying state taxes again (increasing revenues), gets folks off public benefits (saving the state budget millions), and enables Oregonians to once again contribute to the economy as consumers of goods and services.

I write to express my strong support for continued investment in *Prosperity 10,000* — Oregon's proven workforce success story. When Oregon invests in jobs, it strengthens families, communities, and the state's economy. *Prosperity 10,000* has demonstrated that workforce funding isn't a costly investment, it's a return-generating investment:

- Return on Investment: A \$35 million state investment has generated \$219 million in economic benefits, including \$23 million in new tax revenue and \$195 million in reduced social service costs.
- 9,285 Oregonians served through local workforce boards statewide.
- Family-wage outcomes: Participants earn an average of \$22.73/hour, with 72% working full-time.

There are few bills that guarantee a positive RETURN ON INVESTMENT and have the data to prove it. PROSPERITY 10K is one!

Smart investments like this will HELP solve our budget crisis, not to mention improve the lives of families and children in Oregon.

In partnership with local stakeholders from business and industry; trades and labor; Pre K – Adult education; and community-based service providers, Oregon’s nine workforce development boards ask that you co-sign the attached letter in support of continued funding for this critical program.

Funding for Prosperity 10,000 expires June 30, 2026. Without continued investment, Oregon risks losing the infrastructure, partnerships, and proven results this initiative has built.

I urge the Legislature to invest \$15 million in the 2026 session to sustain Prosperity Programs and protect Oregon’s workforce and economic momentum.

Thank you for your commitment to helping Oregonians prepare for and succeed in quality jobs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Allan Wilson', with a stylized, cursive script.

Allan Wilson

Senior Planner

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