



To: Oregon State Legislators

From: Lisa Staudt, Counseling Manager, Timber Lake Job Corps

Date: February 3, 2026

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

Dear Oregon Legislators,

As you approach the Session, you will have many competing proposals before you.

We'd like to ask that you keep two things in mind:

- 1) Oregon has lost 26,000+ jobs in the past 15 months. Each one of these Oregon 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 our revenues) and gets folks off of public benefits (saving the state budget millions).

We write to express our 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 cost — 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 can 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.

Your local workforce boards and their education, labor, business and non-profit partners in your districts ask that you co-sign the attached letter in support of 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.



We 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,

Lisa Staudt

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