

## Testimony for support of **Prosperity Programs SB 1512**

My name is Matt Geiger, I am the executive Director of the Chemeketa Center for Business and Industry to testify in support of SB1512, which if passed will keep decisions local and responsive to regional labor market needs, instead of centralized at the state level.

At Chemeketa Community college we partner with our local workforce board, Willamette Workforce Partnership in a variety of ways. One of the more important ways is that we have the unique ability to have a tailored response to the needs of our workforce. We do this by providing education and training to address local workforce shortfalls.

In our area, Chemeketa is the primary training provider for the workforce board. One specific program, that is currently in its 3rd of 4 cohorts, with over 80 participants so far, is called Preparing for Supervision and Leadership. This program creates an opportunity for workers to advance their management skills and develop the necessary tools to advance within their current field.

In addition to working closely with the workforce board, our college also understands the benefit and Return on Investment of these vital programs, specifically that participants upskill and attain higher wages; Returning to Oregon \$2.98 per every dollar invested. In addition, workforce investments get people out of poverty and into better jobs that generate new tax revenue while reducing reliance on public benefits.

At Chemeketa we also realize that these programs are the economic engine to Oregon's economic vitality & the answer to the governor's prosperity roadmap. We do this work everyday, and would not have this opportunity without continued support. Thank you for your time and consideration.