

"Onions Our Specialty"

***Murakami Produce Co, LLC***

P.O. Box 9 • 1431 S.E. 1st St. • Ontario, Oregon 97914  
Phone (541) 889-3131



March 16, 2017

Honorable members of the Ways and Means Committee:

My name is Grant Kitamura of Ontario, Oregon; I have an onion packing and shipping business in Ontario. Onions is the major revenue producing crop in Malheur County generating approximately \$70 million of annual revenue for fob sales. Several years ago I served on a committee that helped create and pass the local service district to help fund the operations of the Malheur Experiment Station and Malheur Extension Service. I am writing to express my concern about the proposed flat-funding for the 2017-18 biennium of the OSU Statewide Public Service Programs.

I understand that the OSU Trustees have requested \$128 million which is a \$9.4 million increase for the public programs which is about 4% annualized. They have done so to provide a continuing level of service for the public programs. The recommended budget to flat-fund the programs would result in position attrition at the Malheur Experiment Station and/or Malheur Extension Service.

Malheur County is the poorest county in the state of Oregon, but yet our citizens stepped up to support these two programs. We understand the importance of these services; they are indispensable. We heavily rely on the research at the experiment station and the delivery of the information by the extension agents to maintain our competitiveness in onion production.

As a businessman, I realize the importance of continued funding for programs in my business such as marketing, promotion, food safety training and equipment repairs & maintenance. If any of these programs were to be discontinued, the

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results would be terrible. Much of the value of the past investments and efforts would be lost very quickly.

Thank you for allowing me to provide input today. I realize that you have tough decisions to make. Please support us by supporting SB 805 which recommends the add back of \$9.4 million. This bill protects the investment made by the legislature in the last session and provides the support needed to meet the current level of service. OSU estimates that every state dollar invested in the OSU Statewide Programs leverages nearly \$10 in economic benefits to the state, so we will all have a return on this investment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Grant Kitamura". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending from the end.

Grant Kitamura

Harold Nevill, Ph.D.  
Director, Treasure Valley Tech (TVT)  
363 "A" Street West  
Vale, Oregon 97918  
[Harold.Nevill@malesd.k12.or.us](mailto:Harold.Nevill@malesd.k12.or.us)

March 11, 2017

TO: JOINT COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Subject: Restoration of Full Funding for Youth Development Council (YDC)

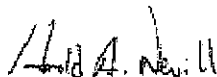
Please allow this letter to serve as an urgent plea to restore full funding to the Youth Development Council (YDC). The grants offered by YDC are one of the few methods of affecting outcomes for opportunity youth in southeastern Oregon, and any decrease in funding to YDC will definitely be felt in our rural communities.

Eastern Oregon has a largely untrained workforce – less than half of residents pursue higher education. Poverty rates in Malheur County average 23.56% and as high as 39.6%, according to the 2010 U.S. Census. TVT's goal is to reach students in Malheur, Harney, and southeastern Baker Counties, including those in very rural school districts. The distance from rural districts such as Annex, Adrian, Crane, Harper, Huntington, Juntura, and Jordan Valley to population centers is too great to allow daily transportation to facilitate training. In fact, many of these districts board students due to the distances involved. Malheur County is exceptionally rural, with only 3.2 persons per square mile. By contrast, all of Oregon averages 39.9 people per square mile. Wyoming, the 51st least dense state/territory in the nation, has 5.8 people per square mile - almost twice as dense as Malheur County. Harney County is even more rural.

In future years, TVT expects to outreach to more remote communities such as Jordan Valley in Malheur County, Crane in Harney County, and Huntington in Baker County. We also plan to outreach to opportunity youth in juvenile detention centers. This outreach is an attempt to break the cycle of poverty and dependence that is prevalent in southeastern Oregon opportunity youth.

Please contact me if you need any further information regarding my support for full funding for YDC.

Sincerely,



H. A. Nevill, Ph.D.

March 14, 2017

SB 5516 Early Learning Division/Early Learning  
Programs Budget -  
Joint Ways and Means Education Subcommittee

Co-Chair Smith Warner, Co-Chair Monroe and  
Members of Committee

My name is Laura Brown and I am writing this letter to acknowledge and inform this committee about the opportunities Preschool Promise has afforded my family. It has been life changing not only for my immediate family, but also for other parents within my community.

I have a six year old son with moderate/severe Autism Spectrum Disorder and I have a four year old daughter with high functioning Autism Spectrum Disorder. We live in a small town in a small community, and our only resources before Preschool Promise were Head Start and Early Intervention. My son has been Early Intervention services since the age of three and a half and he was in Head Start with a one-on-one instructional aide last year. He has since transitioned to the local elementary school.

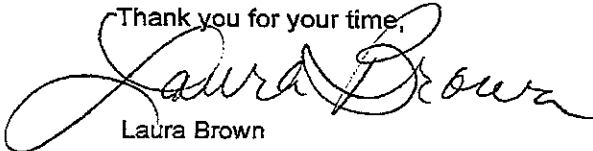
This past school year, even though my family meets the criteria for Head Start and my daughter has a disability, we were informed that we were not accepted at this time for Head Start due to four year olds having priority. This news was devastating to my family because my son made such great progress having access to this program. This access to a program with other children is necessary to my family because I am not native to this community and do not have any family or connections here, so my children do not have opportunities to interact with peers or family. As soon as I received this letter, I contacted Early Intervention, and they gave me an application for Preschool Promise, to which we were accepted.

Due to my children's high level of needs, I have not had the chance to work outside of the home other than weekends, when my significant other was off work, which gave us income, but made it difficult to have quality family time with my children and significant other. I did some volunteer work in my daughter's classroom and was informed of a part-time position within Preschool Promise for an entry-level aide position. I applied and was hired. This opportunity has allowed me to attend trainings that have significantly impacted how I parent my own children with high needs and has given me tools to pass on to other parents who also have children with special needs. This job empowers me to have the ability to help families in the program as well as those outside of it. It is far more to me than just an income.

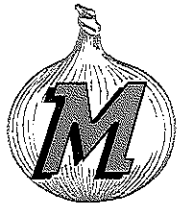
Preschool Promise has done more for my family than I ever expected. It is more than just a high quality program for my daughter, which was definitely needed, but it has also changed our whole family and the impact of this program in this small community spreads beyond the walls of the classroom. There are not many supports for families of children with high needs in this small community, however I have had the opportunity to share the knowledge I have learned with other parents who do not have access to the education which I am receiving in my job.

I strongly urge you to continue funding Preschool Promise in the coming biennium. This program has meant the world to my family and finally gives an opportunity to families in the community whose children would not have received services otherwise.

Thank you for your time,



Laura Brown



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**Mark Redmond**  
Superintendent  
Director of Curriculum and  
Instruction



**Malheur**  
EDUCATION SERVICE DISTRICT

363 A Street West  
Vale, OR 97918

541.473.3138  
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**Teresa Jones**  
Director of Special Education

**Stephanie Navarrete**  
Director of EI/ECSE

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March 11, 2017

TO: JOINT COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Subject: Restoration of Full Funding for Youth Development Council

Please allow this letter to serve as an urgent plea to restore full funding to the Youth Development Council (YDC). The grants offered by YDC are some of the few funding sources that support innovative strategies that can create equal access to hope and success for opportunity youth in Eastern Oregon. Any decrease in funding to YDC will have a disproportionate impact in our area.

As director of community based services, I work with Baker, Malheur and Wallowa Cradle to Career Partnerships. In each county, we took the requirement to use the Oregon Equity Lens to the community in a meaningful way. We wanted to take this opportunity to leverage the intent to genuinely and positively impact the communities that support our youth. We began by listening in gracious space. We held focus groups and listened to each community's own sense of their awareness and readiness to do the work of equity. We identified our own core values and then realized we could have a few core values that united us. Some of the values included FAMILY, LOVE, JUSTICE, and COMMUNITY. In addition to required organizational self-assessments for racial equity, we asked each county to take a self-assessment of their community's awareness and readiness for action. We are building local ownership of equity work.

We are only able to do this work with partners such as YDC funded programs such as Boys & Girls Club, Runaway & Homeless Youth, and others that focus efforts to connect youth on the margins. We know this work will have a deep, lasting impact if we are able to build a strong foundation. Thank you for your attention to this critical matter. Please contact me if you need any further information regarding my support for full funding for YDC.

Respectfully,

Kelly Poe  
Director of Community Based Services

3/17/17

My name is Mara Slinker, I am a client of the Small Business Development Center in Ontario, Oregon.

Although our business, Kinney & Keele True Value Hardware, has been around since 1926, our family has owned it the last 53 years. During this time we have seen many changes in the industry as well in our community and have used the Small Business Development Center here at TVCC, to help us not only maintain our business, but to better compete overall. My brother and I have grown up in our business but we both moved away and pursued other employment before coming back to Ontario. I have a degree in business, and my brother in art. I however, have not used it for several years and need to renew my skills and develop new ones in areas such as accounting, inventory, and overall management and my brother needs to learn all of them.

Our business has always been known to have not only unique items, but it has been a business that is truly invested in our community and their needs. When Snake River Correctional Prison came in they looked for community members that would be able to supply them with some of their products they needed to run the prison from day to day. At the time we met with the Small Business Development Center and they helped us fill out the long paperwork to sign up for State certification to see this happen. Recently I met with Chris Holloway and Liz Amason who even helped me push farther. We are now certified to sell products to federally through the GCAP program and this has allowed me to successfully compete in the government marketplace and grow our business. Throughout this process they helped me set up Hubzone Certification, so that we could be found as a contact and could bid on numerous projects, and also helped me fill out the federal SAM paperwork which took 2 1/2 hours and was very tedious.

Recently the BLM was needing a large supply of plastic sheeting during a fire. We were able to supply them. We were also able to supply our local prison during the recent snow storm where we got up to 48 inches of snow. Our store now works day to day with these divisions now and have made great business relationships with them.

We have now gone from 1 division to 3 divisions in our local prison, including the Physical plant, a building plant, and the Sign shop where they make the forest signs for the BLM. We couldn't have done this without the support of the staff at the SBDC. We also are making all of the paint for our local community college as well as providing paint and supplies for our school district.

The Small Business Development Center has been vital. We used them when big boxes came to our town and threaten our business. We knew that we could not run our business the same and need to compete more, but in a different manner. We needed to

improve our employees and their needed skills because we could not match their money or their buying power. They SBDC helped us develop a game plan. We reviewed our assets, our liabilities. We made a plan to diversify our offerings as well as train our employees. We met after hours and got a master tradesman who showed us to plumb, wire, paint, and use more of our knowledge to compete. We knew initially that we would lose money but needed to recapture our customers. By doing this we were able to make up not only the initial money we lost but made more money in the first year of the big box coming in and are now in the top 10% of True Value's Hardware stores in the world.

Our family was recently able to purchase the entire city block our store sits on and we did a major remodel on our hardware store. We went through succession planning, which many stores don't have, and my brother and I have recently become partners in our store. Although we know many of the day to day tasks from growing up in the store, we are now learning the day to day books. We are learning the differences between profitability and positive cashflow. We are working on budgeting and making projections for our future which the SBDC has been actively involved. Some of the things affecting our budgets now are how the new minimum wage will affect the future of our business, as well as being so close to Idaho, where the minimum wage is lower. We are also looking at our healthcare insurance for our employees to see if we can continue it as well as looking at attrition due to our long standing owners retiring and the overall industry changing.

Our Small Business Center is crucial not only for our business but for our entire area. They service our local farmers, packing sheds, realtors, small business leaders and owners. They keep our town running, our businesses afloat. Without them, we would be at a loss.



Joint Ways & Means Committee  
Tele-Conference Town Hall “Co-Chairs’ Existing Resource Budget Framework  
Treasure Valley Community College - Laura Cunningham Science Center  
Thursday, March 16, 2017 Room 122 Ontario, OR

Testimony From:

Ray Millar, MSW, CPM

Chief Operations Officer, Lifeways Inc.

702 Sunset Drive, Ontario OR 97914

Tel: (541) 823-9069

Chairman Devlin, Chairman Nathanson, and esteemed members of the Ways and Means Committee. My name is Ray Millar. I am the Chief Operations Officer for Lifeways, Inc. Lifeways is a not-for-profit Community Mental Health service provider in Umatilla and Malheur counties. Our service areas include approximately 100,000 Oregonians and we are the largest behavioral health service provider in eastern Oregon. We are members of the Great Oregon Behavioral Health (GOBHI) network and providers for the Eastern Oregon Coordinated Care Organization (EOCCO).

During calendar year 2014 we served a total of 7,209 individuals and families and in calendar year 2016 we served 9,122, or almost 2,000 more Oregonians due to the investments made in behavioral health by the Legislature and the Oregon Health Authority. Additional programs and services developed during this time include jail

diversion services with mental health staff co-located in county jails, crisis intervention teams, early assessment, screening, and treatment services for adolescents first experiencing psychosis, evidenced based Assertive Community Treatment, Supported Employment, Peer Support Services, and expanded youth and family Wrap-Around supports. Additionally, our clinicians received expert training in the Assessment and Management of Suicide Risk and we have expanded access to services through implementation of a robust tele-health system. On behalf of the individuals and communities we serve, we are deeply appreciative of these new investments.

A review of the “Co-Chairs Existing Resources Framework” shows the stark realities of our present resources. I commend you for your thoughtfulness and targeted reductions versus across the board reductions in preparation of this starting “framework document.” These choices come at a particularly tough time with the maturing of our CCO’s and our increased understanding and investment in integrated care. In addition to the guiding principles utilized to develop this framework, the following are suggested to consider as you finalize the next biennial budget relative to human services and behavioral health care:

1. Investments in early intervention, prevention, and community based treatment over institutional care are key to better behavioral health outcomes.

Homes, better crisis and jail diversion services, and the Children's Wrap-Around Initiative and Early Assessment and Screening Alliance (EASA).

5. Lifeways in partnership with GOBHI/EOCCO and Good Shepherd Health System, is constructing a 16 bed Regional Non-Hospital Acute Facility in Hermiston with the goal of becoming certified as an acute care psychiatric hospital early in next biennium. This facility will provide an alternative for local acute care treatment and may offset some of the loss of state hospital beds to eastern Oregon.

Chairman Devlin, Chairman Nathanson, and members of the Committee, thank you for holding these town hall meetings and especially for soliciting comment and testimony from our communities in rural Oregon. As a last commentary, I have lived and worked in behavioral health systems in 5 states, serving as state mental health director in one, and Oregon ...even with its shortcomings... has the best and most innovative behavioral health system I have seen in my 35 years of service. I am glad to stand for any questions.