



March 20, 2019

Dear Members of the Ways and Means Committee,

I operate a propane company in Oregon with offices in Albany and Redmond Oregon. We serve over 6,500 customers within this state and employ more than 20 employees. In the past ten (10) years we have grown our business at a 6.7% rate and will hopefully be opening new locations in the near future, if we can find the qualified employees that we need to do that.

Over the past four years, I have been lucky enough to have had the opportunity to hire new employees to help handle our growth, but the ability to do that has become very hard. We have looked to our local community college for help in this area and they have come through. I was able to hire three (3) trained and qualified graduates from Linn Benton Community College (LBCC) that have become great assets to our company.

LBCC is valuable to our business and the region. We need people with education and training beyond high school. Because we deal in the alternative fuels market, LBCC's Advanced Transportation Technology Center has been able to provide us with a source for qualified employees to come onboard with CoEnergy and immediately have a positive effect on our operations. The ability to talk with LBCC and discuss our company's needs what how we need them to be trained have been advantageous to us in the growth of our Autogas portion of the company. Hiring these students is beneficial to our community and to the State of Oregon as it makes Oregonians in our communities into taxpayers and contributing members of society.

If we truly want to continue our states economic growth, and provide all Oregonians a pathway to success, we must fully fund our community colleges and stop placing an ever-growing share of the financial burden onto students.

I urge you make funding Oregon's community colleges and the people they serve, a top priority, and support the Higher Education Coordinating Commission recommendation of a \$647M base budget.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Randy W. Camp".

Randy W. Camp
CoEnergy Propane