

Oregon Legislature  
Ways and Means Committee

Written Testimony on Behalf of Nez Perce Tribal Executive Committee  
Presented by Joseph Oatman Regarding  
“Repair of Wallowa Lake Dam with Volitional Fish Passage”

March 15, 2019

Honorable Chairman and members of the Ways and Means Committee, as Deputy Program Manager of the Nez Perce Tribe’s Department of Fisheries Resources Management, and speaking on behalf of the Nez Perce Tribal Executive Committee, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on behalf of the Nez Perce Tribe (Tribe) to the Committee on our support for state funding of rehabilitation of the Wallowa Lake Dam, and for fish passage to and from Wallowa Lake. My testimony here is consistent with the letter of support the Tribe submitted to the Oregon Governor on February 4<sup>th</sup>.

The Nez Perce Tribe is a co-manager of the fisheries resources in Northeast Oregon, including those in the Wallowa River and its lake. Most of what is now Northeast Oregon, and all of what is now Wallowa County is the homeland of the Nez Perce Tribe. In the Nez Perce Treaty of June 11, 1855 with the United States, the Tribe reserved all rights not expressly ceded to the United States and - in partial consideration for ceding land that became parts of the future states of Oregon, Washington, and Idaho - specifically reserved rights it had exercised since time immemorial, including the right to take fish at all usual and accustomed places, and the right to hunt, gather, and pasture animals on all open and unclaimed lands. The treaty rights reserved by the Tribe are vested solely in the Nez Perce Tribe and its members.<sup>1</sup> The Tribe's reserved rights in Northeast Oregon are continually exercised by its members, and are critical to the present-day subsistence, culture, religion, and economy of the Tribe.

The Tribe's work as a fisheries co-manager in Wallowa County and interacts and coordinates with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife on fish management and restoration. Our co-management efforts and collaborations has provided for local fisheries in Lostine, Wallowa and Imnaha rivers, for example, that benefit both Indians and non-Indians alike in Oregon. The Tribe’s Fisheries Department office in Joseph, Oregon employs 19 full-time staff, and eight to ten part-time workers. These individuals staff Research, Production, and Watershed divisions throughout Northeast Oregon. The Tribe's local office has an annual budget of approximately \$2.4 million that provides a significant contribution to the Northeast Oregon economy through implementation of multiple fisheries projects on Northeast Oregon rivers.

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<sup>1</sup> See: United States v. Oregon, 29 F.3d 481 (9th Cir. 1994).

The Tribe has long partnered with state and local governments and private entities to help restore fish populations and to create a sense of stewardship, throughout Nez Perce treaty territory in Oregon, Washington, and Idaho. The Tribe provided congressional testimony in support of the Wallowa Lake Dam Rehabilitation and Water Management Act of 2005. We wrote letters to congressional delegations urging their backing, submitted multiple press releases, participated in numerous public and private meetings, and made commitments to seek further funding. The Tribe's driving concern was and remains the historic opportunity to reintroduce Sockeye salmon and ecologically reconnect Wallowa Lake to its river. The Tribe also supports and acknowledges that rehabilitation of the dam by Wallowa Lake Irrigation District (WLID) will provide many other benefits to Wallowa County, including enhanced flood control, improved water management for irrigation withdrawals and downstream flow releases, and greater stability of the City of Joseph's water supply.

As the Tribe continues collaborative dialogue with the State of Oregon, the Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife (ODFW), and local public and private partners, the Tribe's particular focus will be on additional detail in fish passage planning, including involvement with ODFW's Fish Passage Program, and on planning for water releases for purposes of additional instream flow. The Tribe believes that due diligence as a fisheries' co-manager requires focus on volitional fish passage options as part of dam rehabilitation planning. Oregon's statutory and regulatory requirements with respect to fish passage at constructed or maintained dams should be viewed as a positive opportunity for the region, through the significant economic, recreational, and ecological benefits fish passage to and from Wallowa Lake would represent.

Repairing the dam also will result in restored water storage capacity. Consequently, the Tribe is interested in what the anticipated purpose and timing of downstream water releases will be, and to continue to work with Oregon, the WLID, and downstream water users to maximize the ecological benefit of releases. Additional stored water made available after the dam is restored represents a unique opportunity that merits the careful consideration of all stakeholders.

The Nez Perce Tribe strongly supports the proposal to allocate funds needed to rehabilitate the Wallowa Lake Dam. The Tribe is committed to this effort of repairing the dam and to restore passage of sockeye salmon to this lake. It is our belief that healthy fish populations and healthy communities are not mutually exclusive - and indeed should be naturally linked. The Tribe is hopeful that the collaborative efforts of many individuals, local governments, non-profits, and the State of Oregon will result in the return of Sockeye salmon to Wallowa Lake and a vibrant economy for Wallowa County.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this important matter and please contact the Tribe directly at any time to discuss any aspects of it.

My name is **Hannah Williams** and I represent Umatilla-Morrow County Head Start, my family, and my community. I am a Mom of six beautiful children; their age range is from five to twelve. All six of my children have had the opportunity to attend amazing preschool opportunities through Head Start. I believe they were set up to succeed by Head Start services. I feel that through these services not only are my children better and more likely to succeed, but I am too! I have taken many parenting education classes to help me be a better parent. I have also been able to attend many conferences that have helped me become a better leader. I volunteer for SMART (Start Making a Reader Today). I take all of these opportunities to change those around me as well. I have had numerous friends sign up to attend classes or other meetings just because of how they have helped me and my family. One big reason I feel like Head Start is a great start for our youth is because without it my second grader would not be in the top five percent of his class. He was born not breathing and we almost lost him. The doctors told me that he may never talk and that he would not be a normal child. I refused for that to happen and spoke to my other child's teacher which led us to speech and language services! He went into Head Start not saying a word, not potty trained, and definitely not ready for kindergarten. It was through the amazing program of Head Start that he was ready and prepared to learn and grow! I want you to know that education should be on the minds of all government agencies and departments. This is what will let us have a brighter future.

I am **Policy Council President** and I want to challenge all of our representatives to visit our Head Start center and see first-hand what this program does for our kids. Get behind our youth's early education and together we can build a better and brighter future!

Thank you for your time and let me know of a good time for us to schedule your visit,

Hannah Williams



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March 15, 2019

Joint Committee On Ways And Means  
Pendleton, Oregon

Re: Judiciary Budget Request

Dear Co-chairs Johnson, Steiner-Hayward and Rayfield:

I write this letter to support the local courts in Umatilla County and throughout the state. Circuit courts in our state are struggling with limited funds. This is especially true in rural Oregon counties. We need more staff to answer phones, handle intake in the filing rooms and make sure that hearings and trials are scheduled in a timely manner.

The proposed budget would keep the current reductions in place. This would not be in the best interest of those who rely on the services of our local courts.

Sincerely,

  
Steven L. Hill

SLH

## Tax Policy Suggestions For Oregon

A carbon tax that will be revenue neutral by raising the income tax brackets so that all residents will have income tax reduction with the greatest benefit to those with lower incomes.

A gross receipts tax that will be used to fund a much higher earned income tax credit, between 1000 and 2000 dollars. Raising the minimum wage does little to inject money into poor and rural communities while a high earned income tax credit takes money from wealthy corporate entities and spreads it throughout the state.

Peter Hall   Baker County Co-chair   [walkingmountain22@yahoo.com](mailto:walkingmountain22@yahoo.com)



**OREGON STATE SENATE**

March 21, 2019

To: Ways and Means Committee Co-Chairs  
Senator Betsy Johnson  
Senator Elizabeth Steiner Hayward  
Representative Dan Rayfield

From: Senator Bill Hansell

Re: Grant for \$8 Million in State Lottery Funds

Dear Colleagues,

As a member of the Full Joint Ways and Means Committee, I submit this letter of request as a follow-up to the Ways and Means Hearing held on March 15, 2019 in Pendleton, Oregon. I request this letter be part of the official record.

I support the request in the Governor's budget for \$8 million, in State Lottery funds, for the Farm II or Blue Mountain Regional Training Center.

I offer the following:

1. There is unprecedented collaboration between community partners (Blue Mountain Community College, Pendleton Round-Up, City of Pendleton, Umatilla County, Port of Umatilla and InterMountain ESD) to develop a Blue Mountain Community College regional workforce and agricultural training center on property owned by the Pendleton Round-Up Foundation.
2. The facility will be owned and operated by BMCC and will include a local advisory committee to promote the facility's use for regional and Career-Technical Education training and economic/tourism opportunities.

3. The facility will house classrooms, lab space and an indoor arena for:
  - a. Regional degrees for applied animal science, prioritizing the development of a veterinary technician program.
  - b. Hands-on Career-Technical Education (CTE) opportunities for area high school students.
  - c. Home for BMCC's national champion men's and women's rodeo teams.
  - d. Advanced workshops, clinics, and trainings for agriculture and livestock industries that utilize emerging technologies including drone usage in agriculture, animal management and husbandry.
  - e. Equine, livestock events and trade shows in a year-round event center.
4. Funding for the facility comes from:
  - a. \$150,000 commitment from Umatilla County, \$450,000 commitment from the Port of Umatilla and the city of Pendleton, for a total of \$600,000.
  - b. \$5 million allocated in Article XI-G capital construction bonds by the Oregon Legislature (allocated in 2017; must be matched dollar-for-dollar);
  - c. The Round-Up and City of Pendleton are donating approximately \$5 million in acquisition of land for the project;
  - d. \$8 million in State Lottery funds proposed by Governor Kate Brown (pending Legislature approval in 2019);
5. Working groups have been established to ensure the long-term financial sustainability of the facility.

In conclusion, there is committed local participation, or "skin in the game". There are intergovernmental working groups established to ensure the long-term financial sustainability of the facility.

This project is many years in the making and I believe it is both durable and sustainable and I encourage you to give it your every consideration.

Most Sincerely,



Bill Hansell  
State Senator, District 29

**Good afternoon - Ways and Means Co-chairs Senator Betsy Johnson; Senator Elizabeth Steiner-Hayward; Representative Dan Rayfield and members of the committee.**

**My name is Sarah Ray and I am an Adult Foster Care Home owner at Sarah's Foster Care, Inc. which is a DD foster home. I live and work in Ontario, Oregon and came over today to share my story with you. Thanks for listening.**

**In Ontario we care for fourteen residents with a staff of 16 and have done so for 20 years. This is a demanding but rewarding field. We work in a true home setting. Resident managers or providers live in the home with the clients. My employees have been with me for many years. Three years is the shortest longevity of one of my employees. This provides the clients to have a more stable life and a higher quality of care, because staff and clients know each other well.**

**Foster care is a better return on investment for the state because we are not having continuous turnover. We work closely with the families of our clients and build positive relationships. With the families' relationship and our daily interaction, we are able to build unique programs that fit the needs of each clients, just like a family would do for their loved ones. This is the most affordable option. It is less costly than 24 residential group homes, and more comprehensive than independent supported living and even personal support workers who provide many one-on-one hours in the community. We are often over looked even though we provide the same service as other programs. My team is a dedicated group of professionals, who have gone through rigorous and continuous training. They are under scrutiny and rise to the occasion everyday. It is hard but important work as the need for long term care options is growing as you well know.**

**I started my business over 20 years ago. This provided me a great living wage, the flexibility to raise my family, but most important, a dignified job that I am proud to tell anyone about. I have known many foster providers throughout my career. Many are single mothers who want the same things I sought. They have shared that they have little time to attend meetings, conferences, etc. They have encouraged me to find time to help them all address their needs and concerns.**



**We have happy family members as well who support me testifying. They encouraged me to share that their loved ones enjoy the friendship of their peers in foster homes and how stable their lives have become.**

**I am working with SEIU to make the lives of our clients better and we ask you not to make cuts to the budgets that care for vulnerable Oregonians. We are focused on increasing revenue in order to improve important Oregon services. It's already a tough environment under the current budget. I'm afraid that we'd see a decline in Adult Foster Homes providing care to Medicaid patients if reimbursement rates are cut. AFH's provide some of the highest quality of care, at some of the lowest costs to the state. AFH settings provide independence, choice and dignity to the residents, which are the three pillars of long-term care in Oregon. However, this industry of providers has been neglected for so long that people are leaving the industry at a rate faster than they are being replaced. If we don't figure out a way to increase revenue so that we can fund AFH's at a rate they deserve, Oregon will lose this crucial, equitable and cost effective form of long term care.**

**If we invested further in Adult Foster Homes we could see improvements in our communities. We are asking for a 30% increase in marked funding for Adult With Developmental Disabilities Foster Homes and Adults with Mental Illness Foster Homes. We are asking for this because this is the same as the APD Foster Homes. We are a smaller group without the luxury of having an expensive lobbyist, this is why we are coming to you directly. I urge you to choose the well-being of Oregonians that are in our care and work on raising revenue this legislative session. Thank you.**

**Good afternoon - Ways and Means Co-chairs and members of the committee.**

**My name is Helen Moore and I live in Union, Oregon and I am here to speak on behalf of Higher Education funding for the coming biennium. I am an SEIU member who has worked at EOU for 39 years and I sit on our Statewide Board of Directors. In addition, I am the member of the EOU Board of Trustees chosen from the staff at EOU. But today I speak to you, not only from those roles, but also as a graduate of EOU and as a parent, a grandparent and a sister to students at our state university in La Grande.**

**I was working at Eastern Oregon State College when measures 5 and 50 passed in the early 90's and I have experienced Oregon's continued reduction in funding Higher Education ever since. College students and their families have seen tuition skyrocket. I personally know of several students who have family members working two or more jobs, just so the student can get a college degree and have access to better jobs and lives than they could have without that education.**

**Meanwhile, large corporations have seen their total effective state tax rate drop to among the nation's lowest, with costs shifting to people and small business as a result. This trend is not sustainable. This year Oregon's legislature has an historic opportunity, right now, to reverse the disinvestment legacy. I join with SEIU, our students, their families and the many other voices in the state calling on our lawmakers to raise revenue for new investment money for education this biennium.**

**Thank you for being here and Thank you for listening.**

**From:** [Aaron Grigg](#)  
**To:** [waysandmeans budget](#)  
**Subject:** 2019 Ways and Means Committee Budget Public Session  
**Date:** Friday, March 15, 2019 3:41:47 PM

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Members of the Oregon Joint Committee on Ways and Means  
900 Court St NE  
Salem, OR 97301

Good afternoon. My name is Aaron Grigg, Mental Health Director at the Center for Human Development (CHD). As you may be aware, CHD is a not-for-profit organization that provides a wide array of services to improve the health and well-being of Union County residents.

I am here today to encourage you to support an increase in statewide funding for behavioral health services. Specifically, CHD supports the following investments:

1. Community Developmental Disability Programs are funded on average at 80% of the current workload model. Forecast caseload growth is projected to be 9.5% in 2019-21. Fully fund the DD workload Model budget in 2019-21 that supports case management which monitors health and safety critical to the wellbeing of individuals with I/DD, and helps people achieve their goals and live full lives in our community.
2. Increase provider reimbursement rates for Substance Use Disorder (SUD) treatment. The state's upcoming contract cycle for coordinated care organizations — CCO 2.0 — calls for improved alignment between SUD and Mental Health treatment. Equivalent SUD funding is crucial to achieve this objective.
3. Support the expansion of School-Based Mental Health programs. In Union County, we have seen the success of embedding mental health services in the education system. These programs must be extended to reach all students in our county.

CHD understands that investments in the behavioral health system yield significant savings and improved outcomes in education, public safety and the broader healthcare continuum. New behavioral health investments were made during the 2013-15 and 2015-17 biennia. These investments supports jobs in the behavioral health field throughout the region. These investments support:

- Mobile Crisis and Crisis Respite Services
- Jail Diversion
- Supportive Housing and Rental Assistance
- Early Assessment Support Alliance (EASA)
- Assertive Community Treatment staffing
- Supported Employment

We are definitely moving in the right direction through investments in these programs. Just in the past year in Union County these programs were instrumental in reducing inpatient psychiatric hospitalizations by 60% and zero civil commitment referrals to the state hospital. There are many examples of amazing success stories. One in particular is of a young man in our county who in his early twenties developed schizophrenia. His

symptoms become severe enough that he was in and out of psychiatric hospitals and residential treatment facilities multiple times. Then with the assistance of Assertive Community Treatment, Mobile Crisis Services, and housing assistance through the Choice Model he has finally stabilized and is maintaining himself in the community saving the state and county tens of thousands of dollars.

We respectfully ask that you prioritize funding for behavioral health services statewide. By supporting these initiatives, you are not only helping one piece of the solution — you are empowering communities to band together and fulfill their true potential.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony concerning the state budget. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

*Sincerely,*

**Aaron Grigg, MSW, LCSW**

Mental Health Director

Center for Human Development, Inc.

2301 Cove Ave

La Grande, OR 97850

P 541 962-8845 F 541 962-5272

**From:** [Demianew, Chris](#)  
**To:** [waysandmeans budget](#)  
**Subject:** STATE BUDGET COMMUNITY HEARING – PUBLIC TESTIMONY - Pendleton 3-15-19  
**Date:** Friday, March 15, 2019 5:19:31 PM

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Good Evening,

My name is Chris Demianew, I am a 6th grade social studies teacher at Sunridge Middle School here in Pendleton Oregon, an adjunct faculty member teaching the Oregon Teachers Pathway Program at BMCC, and a member of the Oregon Dyslexic Advisory Council for ODE.

I have been an active professional in the field of education for over 20 years and it is way past time to resolve and address the problems in providing stable funding for Oregon's K-14 education system. Decades of disinvestment mean that Oregon's students have to navigate some of the largest average class sizes in the nation, missing out on individualized attention from their teachers and educators.

That's our status quo.

We should be talking about investing in our students, not making cuts. The current budget proposed would mean more significant cuts to my district, Pendleton School District, and throughout Eastern Oregon. On a state-wide perspective, the co-chairs have released a budget proposal that would mean 900 teacher layoffs statewide or four days cut from the already short school year -- \$100 million less than the Governor's current service level budget.

Our school are also under a every growing crisis of disruptive learning environments. (SB 2224) Throughout the state newspapers and broadcast television is sharing the stories of schools and classrooms without the resources to support a student population with social emotional learning, mental health services or trauma informed care for students.

Governor Brown recommended a base budget of \$8.97 Billion for K-12 schools to ensure no cuts would be made to current services. Superintendents, school boards, and educators, agree that anything less would mean cuts to our schools.

We should be talking about investments! K-12 schools need a budget of \$10.7 billion and Community college's need at least \$787 million in order to be able to best serve our students.

The legislature must invest in students this legislative session, and the OEA supports the conversations to find additional revenue to prioritize our students.

Students and educators can't suffer any longer, and shouldn't have to.

Oregon students deserve a fully funded school system from early childhood through higher education.

Thank you,

Chris Demianew  
Pendleton OR

**From:** [Susan McHenry](#)  
**To:** [waysandmeans budget](#)  
**Cc:** [Roy N. Blaine](#); [CHRIS BRAUER \(Chris.R.Brauer@ojd.state.or.us\)](#)  
**Subject:** 2019/2021 Budget - FUNDING FOR STATE COURTS  
**Date:** Saturday, March 16, 2019 3:50:33 PM

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**SUSAN MCHENRY**  
**29744 COUNTRY LANE**  
**HERMISTON OR 97838**

March 15, 2019

OREGON STATE LEGISLATURE  
900 Court Avenue NE  
Salem OR 97301

Attention: Joint Committee on Ways and Means

Dear Senators Johnson and Steiner Hayward, Representative Rayfield, Vice Chairs and Members of the Committee:

My name is Susan McHenry, and I chair the Local Public Safety Coordinating Council created under ORS 423.560. My purpose is to emphasize the urgency of funding our State courts.

- 1) A prime example of our deficiency is the need to staff service counters daily during business hours, which we are currently unable to do. Clerk counters are closed 1-4 hours every day so staff can process cases. This is an unacceptable level of service to our citizens.
- 2) Our courts provide civil and criminal justice services with a skeleton staff which restricts services, public access and crowds our dockets.
- 3) Our court is unique in its statutory requirement under ORS 3.016 to provide court with full services and security in multiple locations to wit: "In the sixth judicial district, the judges of the district shall hold court in Pendleton, Hermiston, Milton-Freewater and Heppner as required by caseload." In order to meet that mandate, the court typically has two staff driving between court locations every day. We need those court locations to serve the public and prevent law enforcement and parties to a case from having to drive long distances on a daily basis. But the legislature should fund enough staff so that burden isn't shifted to the courts.

- 4) We have had success with treatment courts, specifically drug court, but the continuity of those programs depends on your support for the courts, our treatment court partners and service providers. Treatment courts have benefits for our entire community and reduce crime. They also take more time, and that is something our courts in particular are short on because of staff reductions.

The primary responsibility of government is public safety; the need to adequately fund our courts is imperative to allow us to meet that responsibility.

Thank you for your consideration and support.

Sincerely,

*Susan McHenry*

Susan McHenry, Chair  
UMATILLA COUNTY  
LOCAL PUBLIC SAFETY COORDINATING COUNCIL

Phone: 541-379-2413  
Email: [susan@pendletonsanitaryservice.com](mailto:susan@pendletonsanitaryservice.com)



Testimony – Laurie Post, Blue Mountain Community College Nursing Program Director/Faculty

Good evening, and thank you for coming to Pendleton! My name is Laurie Post, and I'm the Nursing Program Director and Faculty member at Blue Mountain Community College.

BMCC has a competitive nursing program that has seen a lot of success over the years. Our students average an 90% first time pass rate on the national board exam, and just a year ago had a 100% pass rate. Our high-quality faculty, high-tech hands-on learning opportunities and dedicated students are a big reason for this success.

But our success in helping to fill a regional and statewide nursing shortage with qualified nurses wouldn't be possible without the strong support from our local healthcare partners, including CHI St. Anthony Hospital. Not only does St. Anthony provide BMCC nursing students a place to conduct intensive clinicals at their beautiful hospital, but they also contribute financially to the College. Each year, St. Anthony allocates \$40,000 – as does Good Shepherd Medical Center in Hermiston – to BMCC to help support a full-time nursing faculty member. Since community colleges are under very tight purse strings, this is not only generous, but a really big deal for BMCC and our program.

St. Anthony sees first-hand the value of BMCC and its nursing program. They hire many of our graduating students, who are able to continue to live in eastern Oregon and contribute to our local economy.

Please provide community colleges the resources they need to continue to support the local workforce needs with \$647 million to the Community College Support Fund and an additional \$70 million for Career-Technical Education. Oregon's economic vitality relies on community colleges.

Testimony – Sascha McKeon, Blue Mountain Community College Biology Instructor

The Biology department was an early adopter of Open Education Resources, with 58% of our courses featuring no textbook costs to students. This has significantly contributed to BMCC savings of an estimated ½ a million dollars. More than that, it's made content accessible to students. While we serve 7 centers, only the main campus has a formal bookstore, which means many centers may have limited copies of a text, making it even harder for students to secure the materials necessary to succeed in their courses.

I believe the use of Open Education Resources, decreases funding anxiety, so students can focus on learning content, rather than navigating the system. By passing House bills 2213 and 2214, we secure funding to sustain these efforts; which will result in more opportunities to adopt Open Education Resources in other courses and departments.

We're asking you to fund a movement. By investing in Open Education Resources, we are increasing student access, while decreasing the reliance on student debt, this is an investment that will impact not only their academic success, but their lifetime.

Furthermore, reviewing material for adoption is only half the battle. Funding provides important assessment opportunities for faculty to meet and ensure alignment between text and course objectives, assess changes in student success rates when implementing Open Education Resources and review the rigor of curriculum which is essential to the accreditation of both, programs and schools. We need additional funding to ensure that the textbook savings does not come at the cost of their preparedness for university or their future career paths.

### Testimony – Zenda Simmons, Student, Blue Mountain Community College

Thank you for coming to Blue Mountain Community College. My name is Zenda Simmons and I am a Senator for the Associated Student Government here at BMCC. I will graduate in June with an Associate of Arts Oregon Transfer Degree and have been accepted to start classes at Eastern Oregon University in the Fall to pursue a Bachelor's degree in psychology. My long term goal is to become an Academic Adviser for other students. I worked in the Corporate industry for years before I became disheartened and decided to pursue higher education. As an academic advisor I hope to influence and guide others to have better career choices and life options. As a non-traditional student I have been supported at BMCC and ultimately excelled. The community college has been a necessary stepping stone to not only myself, but also other non-traditional students, traditional students and community members alike. Community colleges help communities grow and thrive in our ever changing and challenging current workforce environment. As of Thursday the 13<sup>th</sup> the board of education decided not increase tuition. By doing this they recognized that the students are already being burdened with the nearly 12% increase of tuition over the last two years at BMCC. During that time most people's wages have not increased but basic need bills have; such as rent, power and groceries. In order to help with these increases the college opened the 'DEN' – a food pantry specifically designed to help students not go hungry. 43% of BMCC students have said they have not eaten because of a lack of funds. I am addressing you today to ask that you reserve funds to assist the financial burden of students in Oregon's 17 community colleges. This is a matter of equitable access to an education for all who desire it. It is my hope that we can encourage, not discourage, students of all levels to seek education by keeping tuition affordable and available to all.

Testimony – Albert “Chief” Corpus, Portland General Electric/Blue Mountain Community College industry partner

Greetings. My name is Chief Corpus. I work for Portland General Electric as the Generation Training Specialist with responsibility for training of over 500 employees in our generation division. I also serve on the Advisory Board to the Blue Mountain Community College Industrial Systems Technology program. The move away from career technical education over the past two decades has created a shortage of trained and qualified maintenance workers in our local area, as well as across our nation. I support the mission of the Industrial Systems Technology program to prepare local students to meet this skilled worker shortage. I believe an investment in programs like this is an investment in our economic future and significantly helps American companies compete in the global markets of today. I strongly recommend that CTE programs receive funding to provide the educational opportunities that our students need to succeed in in the current work environment.

Thanks for your time

Testimony – Amanda Franklin, Blue Mountain Community College Nursing Program Alumnus/Nurse, CHI St. Anthony Hospital

Good evening, Madame Chairs and members of the committee, and thank you for coming all the way to Pendleton to allow us the opportunity to speak.

My name is Amanda Franklin, and I am a proud alumnus of the Blue Mountain Community College nursing program, Class of 2016. BMCC's nursing program prepared me in more ways than I ever could have realized to be successful in my field. Through relevant and dedicated instruction, hands-on learning experiences in and out of the classroom, and wraparound support services from the College, I graduated with a nursing degree and a job with St. Anthony Hospital here in Pendleton.

St. Anthony has partnered with BMCC for years to allow students the opportunity to gain real-world experiences with very real people in a very real setting. The experiences and connections made throughout my education at BMCC and clinicals at St. Anthony Hospital made it possible for me to secure a great job in my hometown.

I urge you to support career technical education in community colleges so that others like me can pursue and achieve their educational goals close to home, at an affordable rate, with quality instruction, and essential industry partnerships. Please fund community colleges at a level of \$647 million and provide an additional \$70 million for CTE programs. Oregon's workforce depends on it.

Thank you for your time.

March 15, 2019

Presentation before the Oregon Legislature Joint Committee for Ways and Means  
Bob Clapp Theater in Pioneer Hall  
Blue Mountain Community College  
Pendleton, OR

By: Harold Geller, President St. Anthony Hospital, Pendleton, OR

To: Honorable Co-Chairs Senator Elizabeth Steiner-Hayward, Senator Betsy Johnson, and Representative Dan Rayfield and members of the Oregon Legislature Joint Committee for Ways and Means

Good evening. My name is Harry Geller, President St. Anthony Hospital, Pendleton, OR. Thank you for providing me the opportunity to express our hospital's support for \$647 million in funding for community colleges across our state. No doubt, I am sure you are well aware of health care labor shortages, particularly in rural communities. Hospitals are frequently one of--if not the--main economic engines in rural communities. Therefore, it is imperative that we recruit and retain a highly qualified work force and that we work closely with community colleges, such as BMCC, to do so. Since 2007, St. Anthony Hospital and Good Shepherd Hospital, Hermiston, have partnered initially to fund \$40,000 per year toward the cost of one full-time nurse instructor at BMCC. Our hospitals have been so pleased with the results that in 2017 we doubled our joint funding to \$80,000 per year toward the cost of a full-time nurse instructor. 95% to 100% of nursing students graduating BMCC pass the national examination on the first try. That's commendable! The instructors are top notch. Their students conduct clinical rotations through both of our hospitals. Since we know the caliber of students produced by BMCC, St. Anthony typically hires between 8 to 10 students each spring after graduation. I am confident Good Shepherd does the same. We see tremendous value in our continued, I must say, outstanding relationship with BMCC. As such, BMCC has invited us and we do, indeed, fully participate on its Advisory Committee. I would add that BMCC has done a tremendous job reaching out not only to the health care sector, but to all facets of our local business community.

In closing, thank you for conducting this hearing in Pendleton today and thank you for continued full funding of our community college system.

## Testimony – Jane Hill, Blue Mountain Community College Board of Education

Good evening, I'm Jane Hill, a Board of Education member for Blue Mountain Community College. Thank you for taking the time to come to Eastern Oregon.

I'm well aware that all of you on this Committee value education and believe in community colleges as I do as a board member.

You may not know this about me, but I was a lobbyist for students in post-secondary education early in my career. What I've seen over the years is that tuition increases have been necessary because the state has backed away from its commitment to adequately fund post-secondary education.

In that light, BMCC over the past several years has gone from the middle of the pack on tuition and fees to the highest in the state. Last year, we promised our students after a 7% increase that we would try very hard not to have another increase this year. The Ways and Means' proposed budget puts us at \$590 million – thank you for that increase over the Governor's proposed \$543 million – but what we really need is \$647 million. Even at 590 and no tuition increase, BMCC will still have to use \$1.8 million of its reserves.

A tuition increase of \$1 generates about \$50,000. So even at a 5% increase and \$250,000, we'd still need to utilize \$1.5 million of our reserves. This is not sustainable.

For the first time in 23 years, the Board on Wednesday night voted to NOT raise tuition to be fair to our students. We are choosing to use our reserves for the upcoming year, and give ourselves and our new president a year to restructure how we deliver education at a cost students can afford.

Traditionally, community colleges receive one-third of their funding from state resources, one-third from local taxes and one-third from tuition. But these percentages no longer hold – currently, BMCC receives 28% from the state, 32% from local property taxes, 5% from other resources, and 35% from tuition.

What do I need from all of you? I need you to rethink your commitment to students who are our community members, and to our communities that are the economic engines in rural Oregon. We need your support to provide economic vitality to Oregon. This is more than just about supporting community colleges – it's about supporting Oregon.

Testimony – Jerry McMichael, Industrial Systems Technology Instructor, Blue Mountain Community College

Testimony to Ways and Means Committee:

Hello. My name is Jerry McMichael. I am the Department Chair and an instructor here at Blue Mountain Community College for a program called Industrial Systems Technology. We train students to be multi-skilled industrial maintenance mechanics and technicians.

Our program is located in the BMCC Workforce Training Center at the Port of Morrow in Boardman, where I am sure you know manufacturing, food processing, electrical generation and many other industries are booming.

Being in the center of so much industry gives BMCC the opportunity to work directly with many of these companies. They not only help steer our program to ensure our students learn the knowledge and skills needed to be successful maintenance personnel, but look to hire the students when they complete the program. Some of the companies we partner with are Portland General Electric, Lamb Weston, Amazon Web Services (data centers,) Columbia River Processing (Tillamook), Boardman Foods and the Walmart Distribution Center in Hermiston.

Maintenance personnel who are responsible for maintaining and troubleshooting the many systems in these industries are highly trained. And, as technology moves forward and companies continue to compete in a global economy the need for skilled personnel in, among other areas, robotics, automated systems and control technologies will continue to grow and be indispensable for success on the world stage.

The Industrial Systems Technology program needs to remain relevant to our industry partners in the future and offer cutting edge technical training in order to help maximize the potential of local industries. This will require the state to invest more in community colleges. But the economic return of successful manufacturing companies far out-weigh those investment costs. I urge you to fully fund community colleges at \$647 million, and invest an additional \$70 million in CTE programs.

Thank You.



Testimony – John Diaz, Blue Mountain Community College student/Veteran Resource Center Peer Mentor

Hello, my name is John Diaz. I would briefly like to speak to you about how BMCC has impacted me as a veteran student. I am a Diesel Tech student and a Veteran Peer Mentor in the newly created Veteran Resource Center here at BMCC. As a non-traditional first generation veteran student, BMCC has opened so many doors for me and my family in a short matter of time, from the multiple community resources for veterans and the Diesel technology program. BMCC has really made adapting to post military life a healthier experience. Providing an area like the veteran resource center has really pushed me to get out, interact, and obtain my degree. It's nice knowing I have a safe haven with resources in arms' reach. I strongly encourage you to fully fund community colleges and CTE programs. Thank you for your time.

**From:** [Rep Barreto](#)  
**To:** [waysandmeans budget](#)  
**Cc:** [robertjenson29@gmail.com](mailto:robertjenson29@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** Evelyn Jenson testimony from Friday  
**Date:** Monday, March 18, 2019 2:48:01 PM

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Hi Ken.

Our office would like to submit Evelyn Jenson's testimony from the State Budget Community Hearing at BMCC in Pendleton. Thank you. Vicki Olson, LA Rep. BARreto

Hello and welcome to Eastern Oregon. I'm Evelyn Jenson and for those on the committee who don't know me my late husband, Rep. Bob Jenson, served in the State Legislature for 18 years.

During that time the Legislature continued closing state hospitals which Bob vigorously opposed for this region. The 60 inpatient beds for critically ill mental health and alcohol and drug patients were desperately needed. The decision to close the Blue Mountain Recovery Center (BMRC) however, was made and left a huge treatment void in this area.

Some of you were aware of Bob's deep concern regarding this, and indicated a willingness to try and improve services when possible.

Without BMRC some of the individuals needing crisis services have and are being taken to the jail, not unlike other states.

After reading the Jail Modification Plan and being invited to that facility for a tour and participating in a combined staff meeting of community mental health and jail alcohol and drug counselors I came away being very impressed with the services that the jail provides. They ensure where possible that the inmates receive appropriate treatment while incarcerated and develop a transition plan for release of the inmates which is critically important in the treatment process. I urge the committee members to fund the plan and begin filling the void left by the closure of BMRC. With the additional rooms the plan includes there would be an increase in services to clients while ensuring better client safety for all inmates and staff.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak to this issue.

*Vicki Olson*

Senior Legislative Assistant  
Rep. Greg Barreto  
HD 58

Date: March 18, 2019

To: Oregon Legislator's Ways and Means Committee

From: Chris Panike

Subject: Written Testimony on Oregon's 2019/2021 Biennium Budget

My name is Chris Panike and I'm the Business Director for La Grande School District and the President of Panike & Sons Farms, Inc, a family farm located north of Ontario.

I'm writing now to let you know I am opposed to the forms of business taxes you are considering and will vote against anything of that type that comes before me, but I also have a suggestion.

A gross receipt tax may work for some large corporations, but it will kill small businesses who may be struggling. A large corporation survives and grows by consuming the small guys, we all know that, and this type of tax will help them monopolize our markets. I have kept the financial records for a family for 25 years and I know the narrow margins that a small business must survive on. A gross receipt tax, or other types of business taxes, will hurt the small guys. Just as we in education must look out for and support the less fortunate and minorities (as mandated by the legislature), you also must consider your duties to the struggling businesses.

Regardless of how we tax a business, the cost gets passed through to the consumer. Business taxes are simply a hidden sales tax, so I would like to start the discussion on a dedicated retail sales tax for education in Oregon. In other words, if it sounds like a duck, looks like a duck and walks like a duck, let's call in a duck – which in this case is a sales tax. Even here in conservative Eastern Oregon I have discussed this topic with my Board, Administrative Team and area Business Managers and I have found a significant amount of interest and support.

A retail sales tax is discretionary in that we can choose how much to pay based on our purchasing habits, it can be programmed to protect the less fortunate, it is paid by far more than just the state's residents and it is obvious as we can all see it in each purchase. If you will guarantee education a fixed percentage of the legislature's final budget, which is now about 38%, and dedicate a retail sales tax to education, we can work on getting to the quality education model.

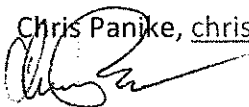
For your information, the current proposed 8.87 billion K-12 budget will hurt La Grande School District, but is survivable because of four years of 2% to 3% student growth. Without this student growth, the proposed budget would force us to make significant cuts, like many other districts who have not been as fortunate.

Schools need additional revenue if we are going to improve the education for all students, but I cannot support a process that penalizes struggling businesses.

If you want my vote for a new tax, along with the votes of several folks I have talked to, then let's start the discussion on a retail sales tax and call it what it really is.

For your information, I attended the meeting at Blue Mountain College on 3/15/19 with hopes of delivering the above message, but was not provided an opportunity to speak.

Chris Panike, [chris.panike@lagrandesd.org](mailto:chris.panike@lagrandesd.org), 541-663-3206, 541-663-6884



**From:** [Granelia Thompson](#)  
**To:** [waysandmeans budget](#)  
**Subject:** budget  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 19, 2019 2:37:46 PM

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I thank the Ways and Means Committee for coming to Pendleton. I am very sorry I could not make that. Thank you for providing this opportunity to give my opinion on how you spend my money.

I think the #1 job of government is public safety. We should not have long rap sheets, if they won't behave and refuse to take the opportunities that should be provided in the first 3-4 times in prison, triple the time, protect the public. Rape kits should be required to be tested in a week, get rapists in jail and protect the public. I think the public safety budget needs to be doubled. I do think there are things that are too expensive in our prison system, that we should get more for our dollars than we do.

I think the #2 job of government is transportation, the bulk of that being roads. We pay plenty for that, our costs greatly increased, I wish I thought it would result in being able to get to the beach without sitting in Portland. We avoid Portland if at all possible prefer to shop in Spokane where you can get around. I do think 205 needs extra lanes, and I think a new freeway needs to come down from Washington across the river to Hillsboro, tie back in to I5 south of Portland. That would reduce pressure on I5 bridge and the bottleneck by the zoo on 26. All I hear from Portland is get out of your cars.....yeah right.....and tolls, tolling roads we have paid for already.....NO NO NO!!!!.

I think the #3 job of government is education, due to the fact we gave away our local control a long time ago, which was a mistake. I get upset when every time you want a raise in a tax, which seems to be all the time, you say it is for the children then when the economy isn't doing so great, cut classroom teachers and spend it on other things and don't cut other things. No worthwhile teacher with children in their room should be cut.....cut administratively in the bureaucracy. Kids deserve opportunities, music in schools, electives that help prepare kids for the work force. They need to be taught to work.....be on time, be responsible, be prepared, consequences for doing things that would get you fired in the work force.

Unfortunately regulations from the state seem to decrease work opportunities every year for youth, which does not help create a work force. I do object to schools being used to try to teach my grandkids values totally opposite of what we stand for, and kids should be taught how to read and do math, learn history and science without that. Let parents teach their own kids their own values. As a former teacher and with a love of learning, it pains me to see so many consider leaving the public schools until I see some of the stuff going on in conflict to our values.

There are things in this budget that are too high, that need to be cut.

1. Subsidies need to not be subsidized forever, especially wind and solar that are killing way too much wildlife, providing erratic electricity at tremendous cost to everyone. This is destroying the environment in the name of saving it.

2. If you want to reduce carbon, change forest practices to reduce fire. Cap and Trade isn't going to do more than a miniscule change to the carbon footprint on the globe other than hit everyone's wallet big time, hurting the poor and middle class and small business very very hard. Thin forests, log dead and dying areas, log a percentage of the forests annually, respecting the time needed for the forests to regrow to maturity and not over harvest.

Currently we drastically under harvest. Replant.....young vigorous trees are less likely to burn, and consume a lot of CO2, which old trees do not. A patchwork of various ages of trees and logged areas forms a fire break or at least a slowing of it. Fire, not cars, is our biggest

polluter.

3. Due to the extremely successful economy nationwide resulting in more jobs than workers, you should be able to cut welfare, teach people to work and help them be good employees, good renters, not welfare for life. Help them for a period of time. We have a horrible work force, employers complain they can't find reliable workers. These programs contribute to that. They need to be drug free, need to take drug tests to get money. No food card should be swiped for cash, thousands get swiped at the casino at Wildhorse. Junk food, cigarettes and beer should not be purchased with cards or cash from the card. Why are we paying for free breakfast, free lunch, sending home food in backpacks, AND giving the parents money enough to feed their kids? Isn't that duplicity of service? There are lots of duplicity in various bureaucracy that could be cut or streamlined saving millions.

4. health plan needs to stay basic, pay for routine medical common problems such as pneumonia, vaccinations and things that focus on prevention of health problems but not for sex change or abortion, not for transplants if there are health problems in addition to the organ failure that would reduce the person's chance of survival for more than 5 years. We do have a mental health problem, we threw the baby out with the bath when the mental health system we had was dismantled rather than reformed. We need a place to care for them. Too many live on the streets, which is unhealthy for everyone with feces and used needles everywhere, trash everywhere. We need a place where they can be taken for treatment ( and possibly against their will, but the present situation is not helping them and unsafe for everyone), not allowed to stay on the streets like that with no treatment. The more you provide in free stuff, camps in areas where camping is not supposed to be allowed for everyone, the more you enable and encourage homelessness. If you took the mentally ill and the drug abusers off the streets, you would have only a few left by comparison who can't afford a place or have a temporary challenge. They can be helped more often than not. The extremely expensive solutions being tried in the last decade obviously are not solving the problem but exasperating it. So stop pouring more money into failure.

**DO NOT ALLOW THE STEALING BY THE STATE OF SAIF FUNDS PAID BY EMPLOYERS AND EMPLOYEES FOR INJURED WORKERS.** This would not be "borrowing" anymore than they "borrowed" PERS years ago, and never paid back.....now we pay through the nose for that outrageously expensive overly generous system.

I think the taxpayer should be reimbursed for having spent a million paying for sexual misconduct on the part of legislatures. The guilty should pay their own fines out of their own wallets. They should be shown the door as surely as Jeff Kruse.....no 2 tiered justice, equal justice for all. I do want it clear there really was sexual harrassment, if there is not a crime, there should be no fine or expulsion based on one or two claims without any proof. Make sure there was a crime, no Duke LaCross cases in Oregon, but if there truly was a crime, throw out the bums and send them the bill. Our million should go to public safety for costs in investigating their crimes, they can pay their own victim compensation bills.

Thank you for your time in considering this taxpayer's opinions.  
Granella Thompson

**From:** [Brian Oliver](#)  
**To:** [waysandmeans budget](#)  
**Subject:** Wallowa Lake Dam  
**Date:** Monday, March 11, 2019 6:37:00 PM

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I'm writing in support of rebuilding Wallowa Lake Dam and providing fish passage to restore the once great salmon run that is now landlocked. Please rebuild the dam and bring sockeye salmon back to the headwaters of the Wallowa River.

Sincerely,

Brian Oliver

**From:** [Brad Stephens](#)  
**To:** [waysandmeans budget](#)  
**Cc:** [jennfier@nativefishsociety.org](mailto:jennfier@nativefishsociety.org)  
**Subject:** Wallowa Lake Dam  
**Date:** Monday, March 11, 2019 12:49:35 PM

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Top whom it may concern.

I am a resident of Joseph Oregon and am strongly in favor of the Wallowa Lake Dam and especially the inclusion of volitional fish passage as part of the project. The resurrection of a native sockeye salmon run is one of the most important things that could be done for wildlife here in Eastern Oregon.

Brad Stephens

**From:** [cathy.sterbentz](#)  
**To:** [waysandmeans.budget](#)  
**Subject:** Sockeye Not Jet Skis!  
**Date:** Saturday, March 23, 2019 1:23:29 PM

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Restoring Wallowa Lake's sockeye salmon run is the least we can do towards making amends to the bioregion's First Peoples. One of the best, most accessible examples of a glacier-formed lake deserves more than the noise & spilt fuel from power boats and jet skis: BRING BACK THE SOCKEYE; BAN THE MOTOR HEADS!

Respectfully submitted,

C. M. Sterbentz  
303 Residence St. #28  
Enterprise, OR 97828

PS The educational oppty's from such a project are priceless.