

Submitter: Timothy Urness
On Behalf Of: Columbia Gorge Community College
Committee: Senate Committee On Education
Measure: SB482

SB 482 is crucial to our college's ability to expand our aviation maintenance technician training program:

- CGCC provides FAA-certified training in Airframe & Powerplant (Part 147 A&P) aviation maintenance technician training.
- There is an acute regional and national shortage of aviation mechanics.
- CGCC is one of only three A&P community college programs in Oregon, and the only one east of the Cascades in Oregon. The closest in Washington is at Moses Lake.
- The college is leasing temporary warehouse space in The Dalles for its program. The space is at maximum student capacity. The college can only expand enrollment with a larger space, preferably at an airport.
- The aviation training program is based administratively in The Dalles, Oregon.
- Columbia Gorge Regional Airport is just 15 minutes north, in Dallesport, Washington. This is an Oregon airport (recognized as such by the FAA) located in the State of Washington. It is managed jointly by City of The Dalles and Klickitat County. The airport is an ideal location for the A&P program, giving its proximity to student housing and administrative supports on The Dalles Campus.
- Because of the proposed location, Oregon's community college support fund is not currently able to help defray program costs. State support is vital to a fiscally sustainable program.
- SB 482 would address this challenge, but would not create a precedent at other locations. The legislation recognizes the unique relationship between the college, City of The Dalles and Columbia Gorge Regional Airport.
- This would not create undue cost for Oregon's Community College Support Fund. If the college were able to expand enrollment in The Dalles, it would automatically qualify for this support. But there is no suitable location in The Dalles.

I have taken the liberty to reiterate verbatim Dan Spatz points as this is his testimony,
Thank you, Tim Urness