

Submitter: Brook Bielen
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Higher Education
Measure: SB482

As the Operations Officer of Hood Tech Corp. Aero Inc. I am writing in strong support of SB 482 and its intent to bring local hands- on training to enrolled aviation maintenance students. Hood Tech Corp Aero Inc. operates out of the Columbia Gorge Regional Airport (KDLS) and stands to directly benefit from the labor force produced by the CGCC Aviation Maintenance Program. KDLS is the nearest aviation specific facility location to CGCC where hands-on training can take place.

CGCC's Aviation Maintenance Program was developed and implemented in direct response to the workforce needs expressed by local employers like Hood Tech Corp. Aero Inc. As we seek to grow and expand our operations, we are in desperate need of well-trained, highly skilled workers. CGCC has proven its ability to meet the training needs of other industries; this application will enable the college to train a new generation of aviation mechanics.

Providing hands-on training to students is a critical component of the established curriculum. Having convenient access to relevant facilities in which to conduct this training is imperative. The Columbia Gorge Regional Airport (KDLS) offers both convenience and facilities, or potential facilities, where students can participate in practical exercises and hands-on training. These facilities cost money which CGCC relies on the state's General Fund to offset. By allowing for an agreement between the two operators of KDLS, Klickitat County WA. and the City of The Dalles OR., hours of hands-on training can be counted towards total full time equivalency (FTE) thus allowing for the use of General Funds.

We have been incredibly impressed with the CGCC Aviation Maintenance Program to date and are excited to see the program continue to grow and produce highly capable graduates who are ready to join the workforce. The passing of SB 482 will ensure this program will continue to be successful and be able to operate in the most appropriate and relevant facilities.