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Dear Chair Hudson and Members of the House Committee On Higher Education and Workforce Development,

I am writing to express the strong support of Oregon Coast Community College (OCCC) for **HB 3669**, the Prosperity Programs bill, which builds on the proven success of Prosperity 10,000 and ensures Oregonians have the workforce development resources they need to succeed in a rapidly evolving labor market. I believe this bill is vital to the economic future of the Central Oregon Coast and aligns perfectly with Oregon's goals to build a skilled, broadly representative workforce positioned to drive the expansion of key industry sectors and essential services.

OCCC is the community college that supports Oregon's Central Coast. OCCC operates a nationally recognized Aquarium Science program, recently established a Maritime Construction and Welding program, and is actively engaged in developing certifications for Aquaculture Technician and Maritime Technician to support our growing Blue Economy sector. The College has expanded its Nursing Program and now has the capacity to supply 45 Registered Nurses to our community each year. And with funding provided by the Future Ready Oregon BOLI Apprenticeship Round 4, the College was able to develop its first Pre-Apprenticeship for the Construction Trades (P.A.C.T.) program which provides facilitated entry to the construction trades for individuals facing barriers to employment.

The 2023 **Future Ready Oregon** legislation laid the foundation for innovative workforce programs that have transformed lives across the state. HB 3669 builds on this progress by expanding access to career coaching, scholarships, paid internships, and job training—ensuring that Oregonians, especially those facing systemic barriers, can access the opportunities they need to succeed.

While **\$50 million** is a significant investment, the long-term returns far outweigh the cost. For every **\$1 invested, Oregon gains \$2.98** through increased tax revenue and reduced reliance on social services. At the same time, **federal workforce funding is expected to decline by**

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10% this year, straining an already challenged system. With layoffs affecting industries from government to advanced manufacturing—and **Lincoln County facing continued demand for skilled workers in maritime trades, healthcare, and construction**—it is more critical than ever to ensure that Oregon’s public workforce system is well-resourced to help displaced workers transition into new careers.

For these reasons, we wholeheartedly endorse HB3669 and we urge you to support it as well. We are confident that this bill will have a significant positive impact on the economic vitality of both the Central Oregon Coast and communities throughout the state.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Dan Lara
O.C.A.T.T. Grants Director
Oregon Coast Community College

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