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April 18, 2017

Ways & Means Subcommittee on Transportation & Economic Development  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Co-Chairs Johnson & Gomberg, and Committee Members,

On behalf of Blue Mountain Community College, I would like to express my support of the Regional Solutions budget for 2017-2019. This budget request includes \$11 million of Lottery bond proceeds to support regional priority economic and community development needs. Please consider your support of the two bills related to these efforts: HB 5025 and SB 5530.

As the Convener of the Greater Eastern Oregon Regional Advisory Committee, I understand the great value Regional Solutions and coordinators like Scott Fairley bring to our communities. BMCC is fortunate to have a positive relationship with Regional Solutions, and appreciates the one-stop access to state resources to provide us with the information we need to make sound decisions and eliminate barriers for our communities.

BMCC is committed to providing the education our communities need to support our local workforce. Regional Solutions' efforts to increase regional workforce availability, including housing availability for that workforce, supports BMCC and its mission. The regional water expansion and biomass projects were funded in the 2015 biennium, and both enhance the economic vitality and job opportunities in eastern Oregon.

Cooperation and coordination of efforts is critical in eastern Oregon, and Regional Solutions facilitates such an approach through financial and technical assistance on the priorities set forth by our region. I ask that you please support this important program with the passage of HB 5025 and SB 5530.

Sincerely,

Dr. Camille Preus,  
President, Blue Mountain Community College

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