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CITY OF  
**PORTLAND, OREGON**

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**Tom Potter, Mayor**  
Sam Adams, Commissioner  
Randy Leonard, Commissioner  
Dan Saltzman, Commissioner  
Erik Sten, Commissioner

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March 23, 2007

Ways and Means Subcommittee on Education  
900 Court St., NE Suite 453  
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Chairman Galizio and Members of the Committee:

Portland Community College is a vital resource in our community, providing access to higher education, job training, basic skill development and much more to residents here. As elected City leaders we are writing to urge you to support the increase in funding being requested by Portland Community College this session.

We understand that the community colleges are requesting \$529 million in funding for the community college support fund in HB 5012, an amount higher than recommended by the Governor, but in line with funding sought by the Oregon University System. It makes good economic sense to provide increased funding for community colleges. As we attempt to rebuild our local economy and attract new and expanding industry to our region, we need to have a strong community college where businesses can turn for employee training and retraining.

If PCC receives adequate funding this session, the college plans to expand workforce training programs in welding and building construction technology through its campus on SE 82nd and Division. Many Southeast Portland residents experience high unemployment and low incomes and could benefit greatly from additional job training and educational opportunities. We also know that PCC plans to increase access to healthcare programs in Washington County, where the population is growing and the need is also great for increased educational opportunities.

As a concerned community members and City officials, we believe it is time to restore some of the deep cuts that have been made to community colleges and higher education over the past six years. It is time we reverse the trend of disinvestment in higher education, rebuild capacity at our two and four-year colleges and again have the kind of public education system at all levels we were so proud of just a decade ago.

Every dollar we invest in community colleges creates opportunities in career and job training programs that put people to work. We need to think now about our future and do what we can to prepare every student for high-skilled jobs, attract businesses to help support our economy and improve the quality of life for all Oregonians.

Thank you for your support for maximizing the community college support fund.

Sincerely,

Tom Potter  
Mayor

Sam Adams  
Commissioner

Randy Leonard  
Commissioner

Dan Saltzman  
Commissioner

Erik Sten  
Commissioner