



CITY OF KLAMATH FALLS, OREGON

500 KLAMATH AVENUE – P.O. BOX 237
KLAMATH FALLS, OREGON 97601



Sister City
ROTORUA, NEW ZEALAND

June 23, 2016

Higher Education Coordinating Commission
c/o Ben Cannon, Executive Director
775 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301
ben.cannon@state.or.us

Dear Director Cannon and Members of the Higher Education Coordinating Commission,

I am writing as the Mayor of Klamath Falls to express support for Oregon Tech and the Oregon Renewable Energy Center (OREC) as they seek state funds through a Policy Option Package to fulfill their mandate in ORS 352.221 to “engage in renewable energy system engineering and applied research.”

Oregon Tech and OREC are unique resources in Oregon. That is why the legislature asked them to fulfill this role as a public purpose applied research center in 2001 to expand the development of renewable energy, provide technical assistance on its use, and engage with companies and communities to grow jobs in the energy sector.

The City of Klamath Falls wholeheartedly supports Oregon Tech’s request for a Policy Option Package, as part of the Higher Education Coordinating Commission budget. Our City and many of our small companies have benefitted from OREC’s expertise over many years as we have developed our geothermal district and supported energy efficiency utilizing our natural resources.

OREC is a key component of this rural region’s economic development and talent development strategy. The Center has provided technical assistance to our agricultural businesses so they can use geothermal energy for heating greenhouses and aquaculture, for brewing beer using geothermal power. OREC also helps to attract and retain students who will potentially become our civic and business leaders.

Mayor & Council
541.883.5316

City Attorney
541.883.5323

City Manager
541.883.5316

TTY 541.883.5324 (Hearing Impaired); Fax 541.883.5399

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June 23, 2016

Higher Education Coordinating Commission

The City of Klamath Falls needs more state investment to reduce unemployment and create jobs and opportunities for rural Oregonians. Please join us in supporting Oregon Tech's Policy Option Package request to fund OREC as a State Program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'TK', with a large, stylized flourish extending from the end of the signature.

Todd Kellstrom

Mayor, City of Klamath Falls