



Skills2Compete Washington

February 1, 2010

Steering Committee

Susan Crane, Port Jobs
Rassoul Dastmozd, Clark College
Christy Doyle, Spokane Community College
Chris Elwell
Robert Fiano, The Boeing Co.
Maria Garrido, Center for Information & Society, University of Washington
Grant Gilmore, Association of Washington Business
Margaret Graham, Workforce Development Council of Seattle-King County
Amy Johnson, Greater Spokane Incorporated
Tony Lee, Solid Ground Washington
Keith Marler, South Seattle Community College
Mark Mattke, S2C Co-Chair Spokane Area Workforce Development Council
Holly Moore, E&W Solutions
Lisa Nisenfeld, S2C Co-Chair Southwest Washington Workforce Development Council
Lori Province, Washington State Labor Council
Jesse Rodriguez, Canam
Juliet Scarpa, Seattle Jobs Initiative
Marlena Sessions, Workforce Development Council of Seattle-King County
Ted Sprague, Cowlitz Economic Development Council
Joe Tortorelli, Economic Development Northwest
John Walstrum, Clover Park Technical College
Walt Yeager, BRD Corp

The Honorable Tim Probst
325 John L. O'Brien Building
PO Box 40600
Olympia, WA 98504-0600

Dear Representative Probst,

On behalf of Washington's Skills2Compete campaign, I am writing to express our support of HB 2630, the Opportunity Express Act. This bill will make job training and college programs for unemployed people work together more efficiently.

In partnership with National Skills Coalition, the Skills2Compete-Washington campaign seeks to raise awareness of the need to train Washington residents for middle-skill jobs, which require more than high school but less than a four-year degree. These jobs make up the largest portion of Washington's labor market. Prior to the recession, Washington was already experiencing shortages of middle-skill workers in crucial industries. With high unemployment throughout the nation, this is precisely the time to ensure Washington is training the middle-skill workforce that will be critical to economic recovery and long-term success.

The Opportunity Express Act, HB 2630, is part of the solution. We encourage the legislature to pass this bill.

The Washington Skills2Compete campaign greatly appreciates your ongoing leadership on these issues. We look forward to working with you to advance our middle-skills training agenda in Washington State.

Sincerely,

Mark Mattke, S2C Co-Chair
Spokane Area Workforce Development Council

Lisa Nisenfeld, S2C Co-Chair
Southwest Washington Workforce