



September 21, 2023

Recompete Pilot Program  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
Economic Development Administration

Dear Grant Review Team:

I am writing on behalf of the Lane Council of Governments (LCOG) Board of Directors to express support of Lane County's Recompete Program proposal. As a council of governments, our membership includes Lane County, every city in Lane County, school districts, several special districts (water, electric, fire, for example), a transit district, a community college, and a port. Several areas in Lane county are all Recompete eligible areas, and these communities and community partners are willing to commit valuable and limited resources to this opportunity.

Our Economic Development District (EDD), Cascades West EDD, has identified workforce support as a priority in the adopted Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy. All of our communities are struggling to provide quality, accessible childcare, career connected learning across our K-12 system, affordable housing, and person/family centered healthcare. Each of these strands affect our high prime-age (25 to 54 years) employment gap.

How these gaps are best addressed depends on the character, needs and unique resources of each community spread across an area the geographic size of the state of Connecticut and bisected by two mountain ranges. The proposed effort will allow for the strength of a combined effort while cultivating place-based sustainability born from deep roots. We are excited to see the emergent Strategy and look forward to implementation.

Respectfully,

Heather Buch,  
LCOG Board Chair