

Dear Sen. Rollie Heath

I am writing in support of of Senate Bill 13-218 “Concerning workforce development for key industries in Colorado”. I am sorry I cannot be there in person today, but I am at the Colorado Space Symposium championing the Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade’s (OEDIT’s) commitment to the state’s advanced industries.

OEDIT is committed to strengthening Colorado’s advanced industries through the Colorado Blueprint – the state’s economic development plan. The key to our endeavor is to ensure greater collaboration between educational institutions, the business community and students, so that they are equipped with the tools necessary to help drive innovation and strengthen Colorado’s economy. We believe that SB 218 will do just that, and ensure we have a strong workforce in these developing advanced industries.

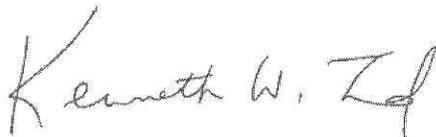
Advanced industries are a prime driver of the U.S. and Colorado economy, accounting for 30 percent of the state’s economy, 520,300 high-paying jobs, and hundreds of thousands of ancillary jobs. These industries are groundbreaking, technology-based industries that share common workforce skills in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM).

Innovations in the advanced industries have ripple effects across the economy. Their applied R&D activities are the engine that drives long-term innovation and leads to a wide range of spin-off products in other sectors. To grow Colorado’s economy most effectively, the state must increase capacity and global competitiveness in advanced industries.

By investing in our students and ensuring they are workforce-ready in advanced industries upon graduation, we are investing in Colorado’s bright economic future.

Thank you for bringing this important legislation forward.

Sincerely,



Kenneth W. Lund  
Executive Director  
Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade