

**Moore-Love, Karla**

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**From:** Skip Newberry <skip.newberry@techoregon.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 9, 2018 9:22 PM  
**To:** Council Clerk – Testimony  
**Subject:** [User Approved] Written Testimony from Technology Association of Oregon regarding DEAP Year 2 Report  
**Attachments:** TAO LT City Council re\_ DEAP Year 2 Report 10.09.18.pdf

Attached is written testimony in support of the DEAP Year 2 Report. Thanks.

Skip Newberry  
President and CEO  
Technology Association of Oregon  
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503.228.5416  
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October 9, 2018

Mayor Wheeler and Members of City Council:

My name is Skip Newberry representing the Technology Association of Oregon, and I am writing in support of the Digital Equity Action Plan.

The TAO aims to establish Oregon as a world-class, inclusive innovation economy. We work with well over 400 tech and tech-enabled companies in Oregon, ranging from some of the largest technology companies in the world to early-stage startups. Our programs focus on helping companies to grow and remain competitive, and we have a particular emphasis on inputs to growth such as talent, capital, and the business/regulatory environment.

An early member of the Digital Inclusion Network, the Technology Association of Oregon and its members have strongly supported digital inclusion in our community.

As TAO members strive to achieve greater diversity and inclusiveness in the tech community in Oregon, with efforts like the TechTown Diversity Pledge and Diversity + Inclusion Lab programming within TAO, the TAO recognizes that digital equity is the key to creating a diverse pipeline of digital workers that represents all Oregonians, and helps us meet the growing demand for technology skills.

Digital inclusion is vital for economic opportunity. Moving our community closer to digital equity improves educational outcomes, sparks innovation, and is key to our workforce development. The DEAP's progress is important to overcoming barriers to an inclusive and digitally connected community. It moves this work forward by supporting access to affordable high-speed internet and devices; providing culturally-specific training and support; and empowering community partners through funding, coordination, and resource sharing.

Moving digital inclusion forward helps remove fundamental barriers to entrepreneurship, especially technology entrepreneurship. This helps our digital economy thrive, and creates prosperity for all Oregonians. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Skip Newberry". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a light blue horizontal line.

Skip Newberry

President & CEO, Technology Association of Oregon