

I am writing on behalf of Attachmate, an international software company headquartered in Seattle. As an active member of the regional software community, we urge you to take every possible step to preserve your outstanding Computer Science program.

As you might already know, Attachmate has strong links to Western's Computer Science program. Over the past decade, we have employed more than fifty successful WWU graduates, including Shaun Wolfe, former CEO and President of WRQ. We have employed nearly twenty WWU interns, twelve of whom we hired as full-time employees. Today, 10 percent of Attachmate's global product development experts hold a Computer Science degree from your university. Many of those graduates work in our R&D office in Bellingham.

Attachmate cares about your rebasing decisions on several levels. As a Washington State employer with a strong presence in Whatcom County, we hope to see continued focus on WWU's leadership in Computer Science. In order for our state to cultivate its position as startup center and attractive R&D location for out-of-state technology companies, it needs your high-caliber graduates. Furthermore, as we look beyond our state, STEM education, and Computer Science in particular, play a vital role in our nation's strength in the global economy.

We understand the difficulty of the decisions and tradeoffs you face, and wish you the best as you work through them. We ask that you exhaust all alternatives before turning to the Computer Science program to find the savings you need.