[Your Name]

[Your Address]

[Your City/State/Zip]

[Insert Date]

The Honorable Governor Bill Lee

State Capitol, 1st Floor

600 Dr. Martin L. King, Jr. Blvd.

Nashville, TN 37243

Dear Governor Lee,

[Introduce yourself].

I am writing to express my support for the University of Tennessee’s acquisition of Martin Methodist College. The opportunity to establish a campus of the University of Tennessee System in my community will make a real difference for my business, our workforce, and our state’s economic development. In order to make it a reality, I ask you please fund the acquisition in the administration’s budget.

As a business owner in [insert city/county], accessible and affordable higher education is critical for our region’s workforce development. Thousands of Tennessee students leave our rural region each year to attend a postsecondary institution in Alabama. With multiple Alabama colleges right across the border offering in-state tuition and the closest Tennessee four-year college 80 miles away, it is often cheaper for Tennesseans who want to stay closer to home to leave the state. And many of these students do not return to Tennessee once they graduate. Retaining our best and brightest students by providing affordable higher education opportunities supports our workforce pipeline and helps our economy grow.

Thank you for considering how valuable this opportunity is for industry in the state. Your commitment to developing our workforce will bring new economic opportunity to southern Middle Tennessee.

I appreciate your support of our rural communities.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]