

February 5, 2018

To Oregon Legislature Representatives and Senators:

My name is Bill Amos. I am a School Board member, mentor for robotics, and mentor for CTE classes. I am on the advisory committee for our construction class, a retired contractor, retired planning commissioner and a grandpa. My grandkids are excitedly anticipating being a part of the CTE programs at St Helens HS.

We are very proud of the fact that a high percentage of our CTE graduates are workforce ready upon graduation. Last year our graduates were immediately able to enter construction apprenticeships, plumbing apprenticeships, electrical apprenticeships, automotive technician positions, secure jobs as drafting technicians, and enter into advanced training. Instead of incurring debt, these young adults are earning livable wages.

Employers are having difficulty filling the open positions they have in the trades, as there is little workforce training in our schools. It seems ironic that we have lagging graduation rates while trying to get all students into college for high paying jobs, when many young adults would be better served, and earn more money, by working in a skilled trade.

There is a looming threat in that some of our best instructors are approaching, or have reached, retirement age. There may be no source of instructors available. We need quality instructors in order to maintain the great programs we offer. I urge you to pass HB 4012 and enable at least a few more retirees to return into the workforce as master CTE instructors.

Sincerely,

Bill Amos

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