



# MANUFACTURING 21 COALITION

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## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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Testimony by  
Norman Eder  
Executive Director  
Manufacturing 21 Coalition

HB 5024

March 20, 2019

Honorable Lew Frederick  
Honorable Susan McClain  
Joint Committee on Ways and Means  
Subcommittee on Education  
900 Court St. NE, S-419, H-477  
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Senator Frederick, Senator McClain, and Members of the Committee:

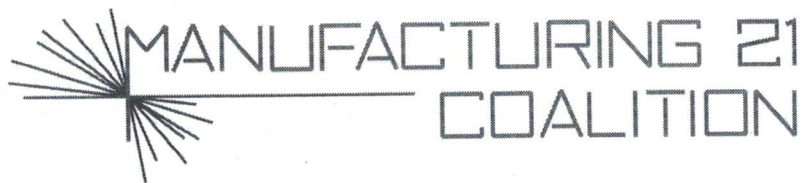
I am writing on behalf of the Manufacturing 21 Coalition in support of HB 5024.

MFG 21 was founded nearly 15 years ago to support the workforce and R&D needs of Oregon's manufacturing enterprises. The coalition works quietly and closely with our workforce boards, community and four year colleges, and the non-profit sector. We do not operate programs. Instead we work closely with those our training and education systems to ensure manufacturing employers have the research and development and work-ready employees.

MFG 21 urges you to support HB 5024. These State investments are critical to making sure we have effective and sustainable workforce training programs with enough scale to make a real difference to our manufacturing economy.

These investments ensure robust engagement between our local workforce boards and manufacturing companies. This linkage is vital to ensuring Oregonians have the skills and experience they need to succeed in the modern workplace.

MFG 21 worked with workforce boards in the Portland area (including SW Washington), to create and implement a single regional workforce strategy. We pioneered a regional manufacturing technicians training program and created Connect2Careers, an innovative online youth job matching and training



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environment. We are now working with WSI and the Beaverton School District, the state's third largest, to integrate school-based programs with public workforce resources

The workforce resources contained in HB 5024 are smart investments deserving your full support.

Thank you.

Best Regards,



Norman R. Eder  
Executive Director  
Manufacturing 21 Coalition