



To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Jeff Moritz and I am the Coordinator of 71Five VoTech in Grants Pass, OR. I work with the disengaged and troubled youth of our community. I am writing to express my belief that 16-17 year olds should be given the opportunity to work in the trades. There are a number of reasons why I believe this is important, and I would like to share them with you in the hope that you will consider this issue seriously.

First and foremost, I believe that 16-17 year olds should be able to work in the trades because it offers them valuable hands-on experience that can be difficult to obtain elsewhere. Many young people are interested in pursuing a career in a trade, but they may not have the chance to do so until they have finished their education. By allowing them to work in the trades, we can give them the opportunity to gain valuable experience and learn new skills that will serve them well in the future.

In addition, allowing 16-17 year olds to work in the trades can help to address the skills shortage that is currently affecting many industries. There is a growing demand for skilled workers in the trades, and many employers are struggling to find enough workers to fill these roles. By allowing younger people to work in the trades, we can help to address this shortage and ensure that there are enough skilled workers to meet the needs of the economy.

Another reason why I believe that 16-17 year olds should be able to work in the trades is that it can help to reduce youth unemployment. Many young people struggle to find employment, particularly if they have no experience or qualifications. By allowing them to work in the trades, even part-time, we can provide them with a valuable opportunity to gain experience and develop their skills, which can improve their chances of finding employment in the future.

Finally, I believe that allowing 16-17 year olds to work in the trades can have a positive impact on their personal development. Working in the trades can teach young people the value of hard work, responsibility, and teamwork. It can also help them to develop their communication skills and improve their confidence and self-esteem.

71Five VoTech helps to give exposure, exploration, and experience in the trades that many young people would like to find employment in. We have had some promising students who have shown great aptitude only to be denied employment because they are not old enough to be employed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Jeff Moritz'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of 'Jeff' and 'Moritz' being capitalized and prominent.