



McMinnville

School District No. 40

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Debbie Brockett, Superintendent

Subject: Letter of Support for Barbara Roberts Career Technical Education Center Capital Grant

Dear Representative Elmer and Representative Gomberg,

I am writing to express my strong support for the \$5,000,000 Capital grant request for the Barbara Roberts Career Technical Education Center, located in Sheridan. I understand that this request is currently in the pool of Capital Construction requests and will be considered during the upcoming short session.

As someone deeply committed to educational equity and the transformative power of Career Technical Education (CTE), I believe that supporting the Barbara Roberts CTE Center is a crucial investment in the broader region. I would like to advocate for the approval of this grant and urge you to consider the following points:

1. **Educational Equity:** Bridging the gap between rural and urban schools is essential, and the Barbara Roberts CTE Center plays a pivotal role in this effort. Providing CTE opportunities specifically for rural students can significantly impact their educational outcomes. Studies have consistently shown that CTE Concentrators have higher graduation rates, increased post-graduation earnings, and a greater likelihood of engaging in entrepreneurial activities.
2. **Economic Development:** The link between industry, workforce, and schools is a powerful force for economic development. Career Technical Education has the potential to transform the region's economy by creating a skilled workforce that meets the needs of local industries. Investing in rural CTE programs is an investment in economic development, leading to job creation, poverty reduction, business attraction, innovation, resilience, and social equity.
3. **Challenges in Rural Communities:** Funding CTE programs in rural communities is a challenge, and the critical mass of students required means they must draw from a regional population. Typically, CTE facilities rely on local general obligation bonds for funding, highlighting the need for state support. The Barbara Roberts CTE Center, ready to commence construction, is poised to address this challenge and contribute to the overall success of our community.

I kindly request that you consider this letter as a formal statement of support for the Barbara Roberts Career Technical Education Center Capital grant. I trust that your advocacy for this project will have a lasting impact on our community's educational and economic future.

Sincerely,

Dr. Debbie Brockett

Debbie Brockett, Ed.D.

Cc: Dorie Vickery, Sheridan Superintendent