



February 9, 2024

The Honorable Lucetta Elmer, Representative
The Honorable David Gomberg, Representative
Delivered electronically via OLIS

RE: Support for Sheridan School District

Representative Elmer and Representative Gomberg, Members of the Committee,

The purpose of this letter is to express support for the grant request made by Sheridan School District in the amount of \$5 million dollars from the State of Oregon in order to begin construction for the Barbara Roberts Career and Technical Education (CTE) Center located in Sheridan, Oregon. If funded, the Capital Construction request will make a tremendous impact on the community of Sheridan as well as the surrounding communities of Willamina, Amity, Perrydale, Dayton, and McMinnville.

Access to high quality CTE programming for all Oregon School Districts is a moral imperative as these programs transform regional economies. However, decades of data demonstrate that rural communities and school districts often lack access to high quality CTE programming. Funding regional centers to increase access is an elegant solution to resolving this problem. Barbara Roberts CTE Center will host a number of CTE pathways that will result in high wage, high demand jobs for students in the region.

Barbara Roberts CTE Center also harnesses the power of public/private partnerships which is critical to the success of regional CTE centers. In fact, just this week Hampton Lumber donated \$1 million to Sheridan SD to support construction costs and Phase 1 building. Our business partners around the state continue to see the tremendous value of CTE programming and the untapped potential of workforce development provided by these centers.

The Willamette ESD is ready and willing to support this program in any way that we can and are excited for what the future holds for students in Sheridan SD and beyond.

Sincerely,

Adam Whalen
Director of Secondary Partnerships

Dr. Joe Morelock
Superintendent