



February 18, 2025

Representative Dacia Grayber, Chair
House Committee on Labor and Workplace Standards
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Support for HB 3181 – Youth Apprenticeship Task Force bill

Dear Chair Grayber and Members of the House Committee on Labor and Workplace Standards:

The City of Hillsboro writes in support for HB 3181, which would establish a Task Force on Youth Apprenticeship to study youth apprenticeship programs and identify best practices, different program models and options to deploy a statewide youth apprenticeship framework.

Despite having one of the highest concentrations of workforce talent for advanced manufacturing and semiconductors – a competitive advantage for our state to be sure – Oregon must continue to build a workforce pipeline relative to these industries to secure our competitive advantage into the future. That is one reason why the City of Hillsboro was excited to support the development of the Hillsboro School District’s Youth Apprenticeship Program.

The other reason is that these industries provide an incredible opportunity for low-barrier, well-paying career opportunities for community members. We know that our K-12 students don’t often realize that family wage job opportunities exist right in their community, and that the jobs don’t require extensive and expensive higher education. The Hillsboro Youth Apprenticeship program provides an opportunity for high school students to work part time in the advanced manufacturing and semiconductor industry while receiving credit towards their apprenticeship for their STEM course work while in school. The Hillsboro Youth Apprenticeship Program benefits our community, the industry, and our state.

We are grateful to Representative Sosa for his leadership on HB 3181. A statewide registered youth apprenticeship framework would address Oregon’s workforce shortage in multiple sectors, allow students to earn while they learn, and provide them with real-world experience to help them transition successfully into the workforce once they graduate.

For these reasons, the City of Hillsboro looks forward to supporting a future Task Force on Youth Apprenticeship. We urge your support for HB 3181.

Sincerely,

Ariel Nelson
Government Relations Manager