

February 19, 2025

Chair Hudson and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the **PCC OMIC Training Center**, I am writing to express strong support for **House Bill 3552**, which calls for increased funding for **Educational Service Districts (ESDs)** to expand youth workforce development services.

At the **PCC OMIC Training Center**, we see firsthand the growing demand for **skilled workers in advanced manufacturing and other high-demand industries**. However, many students lack access to **career pathways, work-based learning opportunities, and industry-recognized credentials** that are essential for success in today's workforce. HB 3552 directly addresses these challenges by investing in **systemic, regional solutions** that connect education and industry.

By strengthening ESDs' ability to provide **career navigation, hands-on learning experiences, and technical training**, this legislation will create **more equitable access to high-wage, high-demand careers** for Oregon students. It will also support **collaborative partnerships** between schools, colleges, and industry leaders—ensuring that workforce training aligns with real-world industry needs.

Oregon is currently falling behind neighboring states in **dedicated funding for Career & Technical Education (CTE)**. Investing in **HB 3552** is a critical step toward closing that gap and **building a strong, skilled workforce pipeline** to support Oregon's economy.

We urge your support of **HB 3552** to provide students with the **training, resources, and opportunities** they need to thrive in the workforce.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

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