

House Committee on Higher Education and Workforce Development 900 Court Street NE Salem, OR 97301

March 5, 2025

Dear Chair Hudson, Vice-Chairs Fragala & Harbick, and Committee Members,

I am providing testimony in writing to express my strong support for HB 3669 and the continued investment in workforce development programs that create meaningful opportunities for young people in Oregon.

AntFarm has been a proud recipient of Prosperity 10,000 (P10K) funding through Clackamas Workforce Partnership (CWP), our Local Workforce Development Board. With these funds, we have successfully developed and expanded workforce training programs that have directly impacted more than 500 youth over the past three years. Through these programs, young people in rural Clackamas County have gained critical job skills, hands-on work experience, and pathways to careers in healthcare, clean energy, construction, manufacturing, childcare, and the public sector.

CWP has been an incredible partner, providing not only financial support but also facilitating essential collaboration. Their Local Leadership Team meetings have led to the development of events and resource sharing—a much-needed component for rural communities that often struggle with access to workforce development opportunities. Their leadership has strengthened the infrastructure needed to connect youth with career pathways, employers, and training programs that prepare them for success. Without continued funding, programs like ours would face significant challenges in serving the youth who rely on these opportunities to break cycles of poverty, gain independence, and build a sustainable future. Workforce development investments through HB 3669 ensure that young people in both urban and rural communities have the support they need to enter and thrive in the workforce.

I urge this committee to support HB 3669 and commit to the continued investment in our young people. These programs are essential for building a strong, skilled workforce and a thriving economy for Oregon's future.

Sincerely,

Two Foxes Singing Executive Director AntFarm

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