



SUPPORT SB 784, 785, & 786

Building Oregon's Natural Resource Workforce Through Education & Career Pathways

Oregon's agriculture, forestry, fisheries, and natural resource industries rely on a skilled workforce to remain strong. Senate Bills 784, 785, and 786 work together to ensure students have the educational opportunities, industry connections, and qualified instructors they need to succeed.

Expanding Access to Dual Credit & Career Pathways (SB 784 & SB 786)

Many students are eager to pursue careers in agriculture, forestry, and natural resources, but they need early exposure and seamless pathways to higher education and industry jobs.

- ❖ **SB 784** expands Oregon's dual credit programs to include agriculture, forestry, and natural resource courses, allowing students to earn college credit while in high school.
- ❖ **SB 786** ensures students receive academic credit at public colleges and universities for participating in hands-on, leadership-based Career & Technical Student Organizations (CTSOs) like:
 - **Future Farmers of America (FFA)**
 - **Future Natural Resource Leaders (FNRL)**

Why It Matters:

- ✓ Dual credit makes college more affordable and accelerates career readiness.
- ✓ Recognizing CTSO participation ensures students get credit for real-world skills, reducing course duplication in college.
- ✓ Stronger education pathways mean a skilled, workforce-ready generation for Oregon's natural resource industries.

Ensuring Qualified Educators for High School Agriculture & Natural Resource Programs (SB 785)

One of the biggest barriers to successful high school agriculture and natural resource programs isn't student interest—it's finding the right teachers.

- ❖ **SB 785** establishes the Agriculture Education Scholarship Program, covering tuition for students pursuing degrees in agriculture, forestry, and natural resource education—if they commit to teaching in rural communities after graduation.

Why It Matters:

- ✓ Many schools struggle to fill agriculture and natural resource CTE teaching positions with qualified instructors.
- ✓ These classes require industry experience and applied science knowledge that a traditional science teacher may not have.
- ✓ The right teacher helps students gain industry connections for internships, college programs, and jobs.

We Urge a YES Vote on These Bills to Keep Oregon's Natural Resource Industries Strong!