

Testimony in Support of SB 784 from Rep. Bobby Levy

Chair Frederick, Vice-Chair Weber, and Members of the Committee,

For the record, my name is Bobby Levy and I am the State Representative for House District 58, which includes Umatilla, Union, and Wallowa Counties.

I am here to express my strong support for SB 784, which directs the Higher Education Coordinating Commission to develop statewide standards for dual credit programs in agriculture, forestry, and natural resources. This bill is an important step toward ensuring that high school students across Oregon—especially in rural communities—have greater access to quality education and career pathways in our state’s foundational industries.

As someone who represents a district where agriculture and natural resources are the backbone of our economy, I know firsthand how valuable dual credit programs can be. These programs allow students to earn college credits while still in high school, giving them a head start on careers in farming, forestry, and resource management—sectors that are crucial to Oregon’s economy. By establishing consistent, statewide standards, SB 784 ensures that students in Eastern Oregon and beyond have the same opportunities for career advancement and technical education as their urban counterparts.

In the 2023-2024 school year alone, over 7,400 students enrolled in agriculture and natural resource degree programs at public universities, demonstrating a strong demand for these career pathways. Expanding structured, high-quality dual credit opportunities will not only strengthen our rural workforce but also support Oregon’s long-term agricultural and forestry industries by preparing the next generation of skilled professionals.

SB 784 is a smart investment in Oregon’s future workforce, helping students gain valuable skills while strengthening our natural resource industries. I urge my colleagues to support this bill and ensure our students—no matter where they live—have access to practical, career-oriented education that keeps Oregon’s economy strong.

Thank you for your time.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bobby Levy". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long, sweeping underline.

Representative Bobby Levy
House District 58