



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Testimony in Support of HB 3881

Chair Grayber, Vice Chair Elmer and Members of the Committee,

My name is Lesly Muñoz, and I am proud to represent House District 22, which includes Woodburn, Gervais, Brooks, and North Salem.

I am submitting my testimony in strong support of HB 3881 because I have seen firsthand how public investment in education and workforce development can stabilize and strengthen an entire community.

Last year, Gervais faced the very real possibility of losing its school district—the largest employer in our community, besides a local store. After decades of failed bond measures, our schools were in critical need of repairs, and without action, the district was set to close. If that had happened, it would have devastated our local economy, eliminating 165 jobs and forcing families to leave in search of work.

To ensure that didn't happen, the Oregon Education Association (OEA) led a coordinated effort alongside the local teachers' union and school district leadership to engage and mobilize the community. OEA led bilingual trainings to ensure every voter had clear, accessible information about the impact of the bond. But this effort extended beyond education — parents, teachers, and community members came together to implement a robust field plan that included door-knocking, direct outreach, and ongoing conversations with voters. This was a true community effort, with educators and families working hand in hand to protect their schools and their jobs. Because of this work, nearly 73% of voters approved a \$28 million bond, securing the future of our schools and keeping the district — the largest employer in Gervais — open.

While this was a major victory for our community, our work does not stop here. HB 3881 builds on this success by ensuring publicly funded school construction projects create real workforce opportunities. With the school district being the largest employer, it is critical that every dollar invested in school construction also serves as a catalyst for economic stability. This bill ensures that apprenticeship programs are directly integrated into school construction projects, allowing residents—especially students graduating from our schools—to gain hands-on training that leads to family-wage careers.

For small communities like Gervais, where job opportunities are limited, access to apprenticeships can mean the difference between staying and building a future or leaving in search of work. When we invest in public schools, we are investing in the workforce that will build, maintain, and sustain our communities. Apprenticeships create long-term career pathways, strengthen our local economies, and ensure that public investments benefit not just the buildings themselves but also the people who live and work in these communities.

LESLY MUÑOZ
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
DISTRICT 22



I urge the committee to pass HB 3881 and ensure that every public investment in school infrastructure also supports Oregon's workforce. Thank you for your time and consideration.