



April 1, 2025

Representative Zach Hudson
House Committee on Higher Education and Workforce Development
900 Court Street NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

RE: Letter of Support for HB 3669

Dear Chair Hudson and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments in support of HB 3669 on behalf of Economic Development for Central Oregon (EDCO) and the Bend Chamber. EDCO is a private, non-profit organization serving the tri-county region of Crook, Deschutes, and Jefferson Counties whose mission is to promote sustained job growth and prosperous communities through traded-sector industry growth. The Bend Chamber serves 1,750 members and 8,500 business in our local community.

Our organizations support House Bill 3669 as it provides a critical opportunity to help thousands of Oregonians, who were displaced from their jobs during the pandemic, rebuilding their careers in high-demand sectors like manufacturing, health care, and construction. By prioritizing workforce development in these industries, the bill will not only aid in the recovery of individuals but also contribute to long-term economic stability across the state. The pandemic exposed vulnerabilities in our economy, and HB 3669 seeks to address this by creating pathways for Oregonians to enter family-wage careers that can support both them and their communities. These career pathways, particularly in essential industries, are vital for a sustainable recovery and for preparing future generations to thrive in the evolving labor market.

Moreover, HB 3669 is designed to foster collaboration and build institutional capacity, which is key to improving career-connected learning opportunities. By developing coalitions that bring together educators, employers, and community organizations, the bill strengthens Oregon's ability to offer robust services and training programs that can meet the needs of underserved populations. For instance, it ensures that communities of color, rural Oregonians, veterans, and those disconnected from education have the support they need to succeed. Through this integrated approach, HB 3669 aims to create a workforce that is not only diverse but also resilient, with the skills and resources to thrive in the future economy.

**Economic Development
for Central Oregon**

705 SW Bonnett Way, Suite 1000
Bend, OR 97702

541.388.3236
www.edcoinfo.com



The success of programs like Prosperity 10,000 highlights the potential impact of HB 3669's approach. By continuing to support such innovative service delivery models, HB 3669 promises to provide wraparound services that remove barriers to employment, ensure that individuals are prepared for careers, and help businesses find skilled workers. The continued success of this program will support Oregon's economic growth by creating a more equitable and prosperous workforce for all.

We hope you will join us in supporting HB 3669. If you have any questions regarding my comments, please feel free to reach out to me directly. We appreciate the opportunity to share our perspective.

Sincerely,

Jon Stark, CEO
Economic Development for Central Oregon

Katy Brooks
CEO & President
Bend Chamber of Commerce

**Economic Development
for Central Oregon**

705 SW Bonnett Way, Suite 1000
Bend, OR 97702

541.388.3236
www.edcoinfo.com