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## TRASH FOR PEACE – Reduce, Reuse, Rethink

Prisyla Garcia Rico (Mara Rico)  
2029 LLoyd Center  
Portland, Oregon, 97232  
503 389 0354  
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Dear Chair Hudson and the House Committee On Higher Education and Workforce Development,

We are at a crucial point in the Oregon Legislative Session, and our communities need your help. I'm writing in support of House Bill 3669, which builds upon the incredible success of Prosperity 10,000 (P10K) and creates Prosperity Programs—a workforce development initiative that will continue delivering real, measurable benefits to Oregonians and our state's economy.

Prosperity Programs strengthen our workforce through local, proven programs that help Oregonians overcome employment barriers. With rapid, targeted distribution through Local Workforce Development Boards, these funds are making an immediate impact by:

- ✓ Connecting historically underserved job seekers to high-quality careers—61% of participants are BIPOC, LGBTQ+, women, rural Oregonians, or individuals facing poverty
- ✓ Providing scholarships, career coaching, and essential support services to get back to work
- ✓ Offering paid work-based learning opportunities that lead to career-track employment

Seeing the passion of our career coaches reflected in each of our program participants makes the impact of our work undeniable. Our participants not only find employment



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opportunities but also regain confidence in themselves, empowering them to continue contributing to the community that supports them.

**The financial impact is undeniable:**

- \$23.1 million in new tax revenue
- \$195.4 million in reduced social service costs
- A total financial benefit of \$219 million to Oregon taxpayers

The public workforce system is where laid-off workers go for help. It is the main delivery mechanism during times of economic uncertainty. Fully funding HB 3669 ensures Oregonians have access to resources regardless of what happens at the federal level. Let's ensure our state is ready for the opportunities that lie ahead by moving this essential legislation forward.

Thank you for your leadership and commitment to Oregon's workforce.

Sincerely,

Prisyła Garcia Rico (Mara Rico)

**Mara Rico**

Executive Director, Trash for Peace

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