

Date: Wednesday 23 April 2025

To: House Committee on Higher Education and Workforce Development

Re: HB 3669

From: Dave Baiocchi, private sector board member of East Cascades Works, the workforce development board serving Hood River, Wasco, Sherman, Wheeler, Gilliam, Jefferson, Crook, Deschutes, Klamath and Lake counties

Dear Committee Members,

I write to express my strong support for HB3669, which provides vital funding for WorkSource Oregon (WSO), our region's public workforce system. As both a private sector leader and a board member at East Cascades Works, I've witnessed firsthand how WSO serves as a bridge connecting talented Oregonians with meaningful employment opportunities.

The initial Prosperity 10,000 investment through Future Ready Oregon has proven remarkably effective, comprising just 16% of the overall funding yet delivering extraordinary results. We've helped over 6,100 people, with nearly three-quarters finding employment at an average wage exceeding \$21/hour. This represents not just statistics but real lives changed and economic mobility created in communities across our ten-county region.

What makes this funding particularly valuable is how it brings diverse partners to the table. The education sector (KCC, CGCC and COCC), economic development (KCEDA, EDCO and MCEDD), and private employers all recognize the mutual benefit of a well-funded workforce system. As someone who works in the private sector, I can attest to how these investments create ripple effects throughout our regional economy.

At a time when federal workforce funding remains uncertain, state investment in these programs isn't just smart policy—it's an investment that pays dividends through increased income tax revenue and reduced dependence on public assistance. With each person who moves into meaningful employment, we strengthen both our tax base and our communities.

I urge you to support HB3669 and ensure Oregon maintains a robust workforce development system that benefits job seekers, employers, and our state's economic future.

Sincerely,



Board Member, East Cascades Works
Founder, [Spark & Compass](#), an Oregon-based LLC