

Joint Committee on Ways and Means
900 Court St, NE
Salem, OR 97301

February 17, 2026

Dear Co-Chair Sen. Lieber, Co-Chair Rep. Sanchez, and members of the committee,

We write to respectfully urge you to support SB 1586, the Oregon JOBS Act, which will create more jobs in high-wage, high-demand career sectors, accelerate job growth in advanced manufacturing, and expand the pathways to prosperity that Oregon's current and future students and families deserve.

We in STEM education have been asked to prepare our youth and young adults for the high-wage, high-demand careers that will help our state achieve economic growth and help Oregonians achieve lasting economic mobility. We are dedicated to this work and have responded to the many ways that learners can leverage strong STEM knowledge, skills, and identity to prepare for the workforce we need now and the workforce we will need in the future. But preparing students for opportunity only matters if that opportunity exists — and SB 1586 helps ensure that it will.

The 373 jobs created through SB 1586 represent real futures for Oregon students who are right now sitting in classrooms, developing STEM skills and identities, and daring to imagine prosperous lives close to home. These jobs will keep talented residents in the region and provide concrete opportunities for Oregonians who have thrived in the STEM-rich ecosystem our educator colleagues are working hard to build. When students can see a clear connection between their education and a meaningful career in their own community, we see stronger engagement, greater persistence, and more equitable outcomes — especially for students and families historically left out of economic growth.

Supporting SB 1586 is an investment not only in Oregon's economy today, but in the students and families who will power Oregon's prosperity for generations to come. We urge the Joint Ways and Means Committee to pass the Oregon JOBS Act, and affirm that the STEM opportunities we are building in our schools lead somewhere bright for every Oregon student.

Best regards,



Kristen Harrison

Executive Director
Portland Metro STEM Partnership



Stephanie Salomone

Executive Director
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