

**Testimony for hearing on SB 5518
By Dave Porter**

**Educating for Exports Program
Fund Pilot High School Study Abroad in China Program
\$148,500**

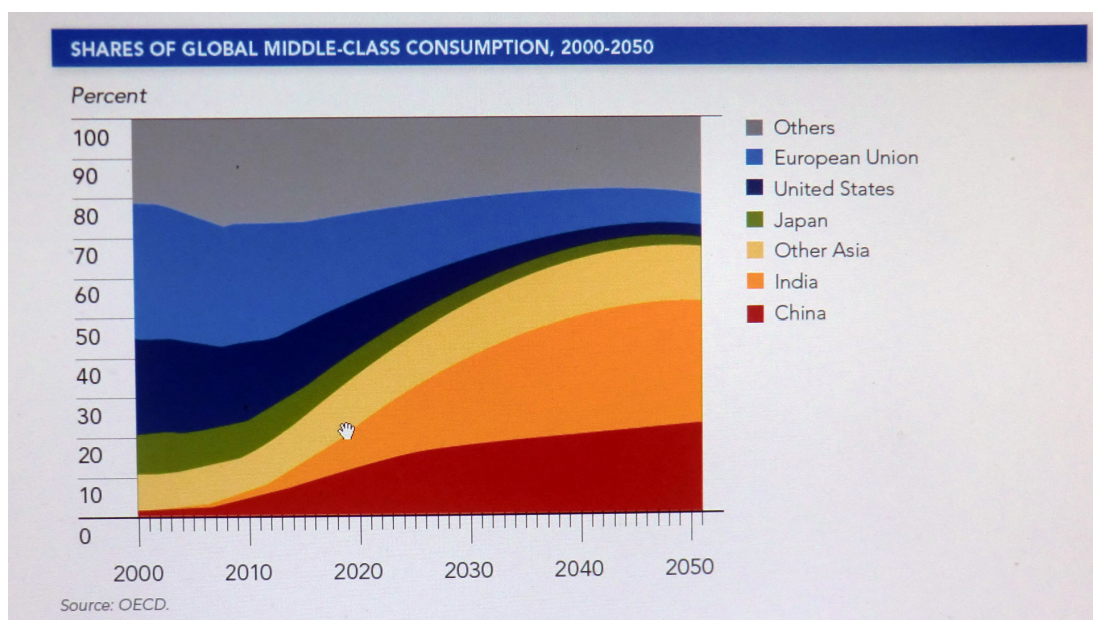
Chairpersons Representative Komp and Senator Monroe, and members of the Ways and Means Subcommittee on Education

Regarding SB 5518, please add an additional \$148,500 to “Section 2 (6) Strategic Investments” for high school study abroad programs to China as follows:

(a) \$135,000 to pay the study abroad fees for 15 Oregon high school students (at \$9,000 each) plus \$13,500 (10%) for the Department of Education to administer the program. Funds for 5 students (\$45,000) to China shall be allocated in 2013-14 for study abroad in 2014-15. Funds for 10 students to China (\$90,000) shall be allocated in 2014-15 for study abroad in 2015-16.

In this era of globalization, with rapidly growing, large economies abroad, Oregon’s best business opportunities and best prospects for sustained economic growth are abroad. Unfortunately, Oregon now has neither a workforce with the skills nor an education system teaching the skills needed to develop, produce and sell Oregon good and services abroad. This needs to change and, with this relatively small budget allocation, you can begin the change process by funding a pilot high school study abroad in China program. It will send a signal.

The following chart from the 2013 National Intelligence Council’s report “Global Trends 2030: Alternative Worlds” highlights the opportunities and challenges before Oregon.



First, note the shrinking of US middle-class consumption as a percentage of total global middle-class consumption. Second, note the growth of both China's and India's middle-class consumption as a percentage of total global middle-class consumption. This is the underlying economic dynamics to which I am asking you to respond. Oregon needs to develop the skill to sell in these growing middle-class markets abroad. Oregon can begin this next biennium by creating a pilot program to send appropriate Oregon high school students to China for a year of high school.

Sending high school students to China for a high school year need cost Oregon no more than the cost of educating a high school student in a local school district in Oregon. So no additional funding is needed, just a shift in how funds are allocated. Currently, the average operating expenditure per student per year in Oregon is about \$9,000. There are at least two current non-profit study abroad organizations that offer a high school year in China for fees of about \$9,000. ASSE, formerly the American Scandinavian Student Exchange, which handles 30,000 high school students per year in 31 countries, offers a high school year (tuition, room & board with a family, and international airfare) in China for \$8,500 (minus 10% for early payment). The Portland based study abroad organization Education, Travel & Culture offers a high school year abroad in China for \$8,867 (plus international airfare).

Oregon could easily do this. Please allocate \$148,500 for this pilot high school study abroad in China program.

Thank you.

Sincerely – Dave Porter
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PS: I will be submitting separately to the House Education Committee suggested amendments to HB 3232 (hearing March 18th) to create another category under the Oregon Education Investment Board's strategic initiatives titled the "Educating for Exports Program" that will include language to increase the number of Oregon students studying abroad.