



OREGON BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

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Chair Dembrow and Members of the House Higher Education and Workforce Development Committee,

OBA supports moving Oregon toward the 40-40-20 goal through pursuit of a fundamental redesign of the education system. In order to achieve this, funding models must be redesigned to encourage innovation and improved outcomes, including an overhaul of funding for post-secondary education to ensure degree attainment consistent with our 40-40-20 goals.

OBA also supports the establishment of the STEM Investment Council and the appropriation of \$50 million from the general fund for the 2013-2015 biennium to support the council's activities, including the following STEM goals:

- By 2025, double the percentage of Oregon's 4th, 8th, and 12th graders who are "proficient" and "advanced" in math and science as measured by the National Assessment of Educational Progress.
- By 2025, double the number of Oregon STEM postsecondary graduates.

In addition, we agree with and will participate in monitoring oversight of the STEM investment council to ensure goals are met and progress is being made in accordance within the established timeframes.

Oregon has relied on an import strategy for an educated workforce. Increasing Oregon's STEM graduates is critical to Oregon's economic success. Funding the STEM investment Council will ensure Oregon is on strong economic footing with a locally educated workforce that can fill STEM jobs that are available now as well draw employers to the region.

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