

March 16, 2015

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Mark Watts and I have been the CTE Metals instructor at Centennial High School for 36 years. When I graduated from OSU the Industrial Arts Program was thriving. A few years after my graduation the program was no longer offered. Because of this there aren't many of us left that are CTE certified. There is a shortage of qualified teachers in all of the high school CTE programs.

The manufacturing community has recognized the need for more skilled workers and has been active in encouraging high school students to pursue education to prepare them for the many jobs they have to offer. For this to happen, highly skilled teachers are in demand but are hard to find. The needs of high school students and the manufacturing community will be better served if retired CTE certified teachers are allowed to teach beyond the present PERS limitations. If HB 3058 passes it would allow highly qualified retired teachers to return to the classroom as full time instructors without jeopardizing their position in the PERS retirement system.

I strongly encourage you to pass HB3058.

Sincerely,

Mark Watts, Instructor
Metals Manufacturing
Centennial High School