

April 3, 2015

Letter of Support for HB 3511

My name is John Tortorici and I am not a teacher, however, as the founder and CEO of a software company I've been personally engaged in Oregon's Tech Industry since 1980. I have seen the evolution of the industry to where we are today.

Over the course of the past 35 years it has been surprising to me that our public officials haven't done more to support and encourage Computer Science in the classroom. Instead we have seen a steady decline, particularly in financial support.

Oregon is uniquely positioned geographically between the SF Bay Area and Seattle, 2 large Tech Clusters. Taking advantage of that position by promoting our quality of life must include the quality of our schools and education system. Including quality Computer Science programs is a "NO-BRAINER."

If this cannot be done within the Oregon Education Framework it can be done via "after school" programs, many of which exist through the hard work of volunteers and industry based fundraisers. Programs like SuperQuest, ORTOP, OGPC, Programming Contests, etc. are part of the infrastructural support that is needed.

I strongly encourage you to support the passage of HB3511.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Tortorici', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

John Tortorici
CEO
Chart Solutions