

April 4, 2015

Letter of Support for HB 3511

My name is Patrick Kraft and I am a Machine Manufacturing Technology faculty instructor at Portland Community College Sylvania Campus.

I have also been heavily involved over the last eight years in coordinating and teaching manufacturing shop training camps to FIRST robotics high school students, in connection with their after school robotics programs.

Prior to becoming a teacher, I spent more than 20 years in the Portland Metro and Westside, in manufacturing. I brought this experience to PCC and use it daily in my classroom with my students.

Our summer training camps actually follow a four credit class outline in Manufacturing Processes, which covers shop safety, precision measurement, shop calculations, and the setup and operation of metal cutting band saws, drill presses, manual lathes, and vertical milling machines. Students also receive access to our shop for one year to come back and use the equipment and instructor guidance to manufacture their robotic designs. We attract an average of 20 students from 12 local teams each session we run the camp, which go back and help the 15-30 other team members they have, for a successful robotics year. We currently try to offer two sessions each summer.

We spend many months fund raising in industry to support these camps. This bill would help us in this process and possibly expand our roll of educational support to after school robotics teams.

Please support and pass this HB 3511!

Respectfully submitted,

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