

April 5, 2015

## Letter of Support for HB 3511

My name is John Niebergall and I am a CTE - Engineering and Architecture teacher at Sherwood High School for over 30 years. I am also the instructor delivering digital design and fabrication with the mobile Bowmen Fab Lab around the state of Oregon, funded by a CTE revitalization grant. I am delivering professional development to teachers and students around technical subjects and helping grow a sustainable manufacturing ecosystem in Oregon. I want to thank the Oregon Legislature for empowering our efforts to restore CTE opportunities to Oregon students.

I have also been fortunate to teach multiple 3D printing workshops for SuperQuest teacher training workshops in Salem and Roseburg. Both of these experiences have exposed me to a plethora of Oregon technical teachers who are yearning for more training in the skill sets employers are asking us to teach students.

Teachers in Glide, Sutherlin, Hood River, Tualatin, Gaston and Hermiston have each told me, "The Bowmen Fab Lab is the best professional development experience I've ever had!" Technical education teachers are in desperate need of appropriate and current education.

In December of last year Kelsey O'Halloran, of the Oregonian, wrote:

*CTE programs are drawing interest at state as well as national levels, said Tom Thomson, an education specialist with the Oregon Department of Education.*

*"From the industry perspective, it's a pipeline issue," he said, as many technical industries are realizing the need for young workers as members of the baby boomer generation retire.<sup>1</sup>*

I have seen the excitement of the students as well as the empowerment of instructors. HB 3511 will provide grants to expand opportunities for students and teachers of Computer Science, Invention, Technology, and Engineering. This is key legislation needed to grow this pipeline.

I strongly encourage you to pass HB 3511.

Sincerely,

John Niebergall

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<sup>1</sup> O'Halloran, Kelsey. "Traveling by RV, Sherwood High School's 'Fab Lab' Brings Tech Education Tools to Districts across Oregon." *OregonLive*. The Oregonian, 16 Dec. 2014. Web. 05 Apr. 2015. <[http://www.oregonlive.com/forest-grove/index.ssf/2014/12/mobile\\_bowmen\\_fab\\_lab\\_stops\\_at.html](http://www.oregonlive.com/forest-grove/index.ssf/2014/12/mobile_bowmen_fab_lab_stops_at.html)>