

April 7, 2015

Letter of Support for HB 3511

My name is Thompson Morrison and I am the Executive Director of the TAO Foundation.

The TAO Foundation is foundation of the Technology Association of Oregon (TAO) and is dedicated to developing the talent that we need for an inclusive, innovation economy. Without this talent, our technology-based companies will not be able to continue to thrive in this State. Further, we recognize that technology is transforming all sectors of our economy, from farming, to medicine to manufacturing.

The reality is that, for the most part, we are currently doing a poor job in our State to inspire and empower our students with the skills and mindsets needed as innovators. For the most part, we continue to teach students the same way we did 100 years ago, and the world economy is going to leave us behind.

Key to this change is providing students the opportunity to develop their abilities as sophisticated problem solvers. Our after-school programs that challenge students to delve into complex problems as they compete for annual events such as those provided by ORTOP and OGPC are critical for them to develop the “deep learning” that helps them acquire these new skills and mindsets that are needed to be successful in the work world.

I ask you for your support of HB 3511.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'T Morrison', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Thompson Morrison
Executive Director
TAO Foundation