



Date: March 30, 2017

To: Senate Education Committee, Chair Roblan and Members

From: Laurie Wimmer, OEA Government Relations

RE: *SB 1004 [Federal Forest Fee Reserves]*

On behalf of OEA's 44,000 members, I am testifying in opposition to SB 1004, which proposes to reroute local revenues from the federal forest fee reserves to CTE programs in certain areas of the state.

OEA was a partner with the NEA in creating the Federal Forest Fees program in Congress years ago, and we also worked hard to renew it when the first six-year program was set to expire. Our commitment to expanding the resource base for our schools in fair, comprehensive, and creative ways continues to this day.

In 2015, a similar bill was considered by this body, and we opposed it as well. The State School Fund is distributed to Oregon's 197 school districts and its ESDs based on a calculation of local revenue. By siphoning some of that revenue, this bill would in effect cause the entire State School Fund – and all school districts – to subsidize CTE programs in a region for a subset of our students. We believe that this would be poor public policy and set an unfortunate precedent, were it to pass.

The federal forest fee program has been discontinued by Congress, so this is not a sustainable CTE funding source. In these budget-strapped times, carving out resources for just a portion of students is also not ideal. With Measure 98 and the CTE Revitalization Grant Program already in statute, we have, as a state, already committed to other ways of funding career and technical education.

If a county wishes to support such education programs as a part of its mission, it ought to use its own resources, and not education monies, to add value to the programs we offer our public school students.

For all these reasons, we ask that you please refrain from advancing SB 1004. Thank you.