



ALEX CUYLER

Intergovernmental Relations Manager
Alex.Cuyler@co.lane.or.us

DATE: March 30, 2017

TO: Senate Committee on Education

RE: SB 1004, relating to use of federal forest receipts transferred to county school funds

Dear Chair Roblan and Members of the Committee:

Lane County sought the introduction of SB 1004 and asks that you schedule a work session on this measure.

The intent of SB 1004 is to better align state, local, and school priorities around workforce development issues related to value added wood manufacturing activities.

In 2015, the Oregon Legislature adopted SB 482 to formalize the Pacific Northwest Manufacturing Partnership (PNMP). This partnership was given a federal designation in 2015 by the United States Economic Development Administration and was so designated due to its focus on the advanced manufacturing potential in our state, particularly for so termed “cross laminated timber” (CLT). Lane County continues to be an active partner in the PNMP and our local focus on CLT usage is a priority for the County’s Economic Development program, as well as the local workforce agency.

SB 1004 would address a particular issue that we believe is key to furthering the manufacturing and use of CLT, and that is developing a workforce pipeline from schools to careers when it comes to CLT. While CLT performs remarkably from an energy, climate, and locally sourced perspective, the lack of a ready workforce adds costs at the construction site phase. SB 1004 is a measure that could facilitate a solution to that issue.

SB 1004 changes not one iota of the existing allocations of county school fund dollars. It creates a mechanism for a partnership between individual, or groups, of local schools with the counties included in the measure. It provides a “first dollar” for schools that are interested in evolving opportunities for career and technical education grants, but only exists upon the finding by the Board of County Commissioners that an alignment is beneficial and that willing partners exist. Absent that finding, there is zero impact to any school district as it pertains to county school funding.

SUBMITTED ELECTRONICALLY