



February 6, 2019

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House Committee on Education:

Representative Margaret Doherty

Representative Cheri Helt

Representative Courtney Neron

Representative E. Werner Reschke

Representative Kim Wallan

Representative Teresa Alonso Leon

Representative Diego Hernandez

Representative Jeff Reardon

Representative Janeen Sollman

RE: Baker County Board of Commissioners Strongly Support HB2444

Dear Honorable Committee Members:

Baker County Board of Commissioners supports agricultural, science and technical (AST) programs and FFA chapters that can be enhanced and expanded by providing statewide investment in critical areas.

Goals of HB2444 for the 2019 session are: 1) to increase student achievement, 2) to remove barriers of participation, 3) to improve graduation rates, and 4) to provide college preparation and career placement for students enrolled in secondary agricultural education courses.

These goals will be achieved through:

1. Enrolling each student registered in a grade 9 through 12 school-approved AST program of study for a minimum of one course per school year as a member of the National FFA Organization.
2. Providing financial support for leadership development and training through multiple programs, including but not limited to:
 - * Local chapter officer leadership training
 - * Leadership conferences for first year members on career and college readiness pathways
 - * Statewide training for Oregon FFA Association officers, including coaching and industry partnership development
 - * Coordinate industry-verified and guided Career Development Events (competitive) across local, regional, and state levels in career exploration and preparation

- * Direct student recognition programs from local to national levels
- * Work with Oregon State Fair to plan and implement industry based events that showcase and educate value and importance of agriculture in Oregon's economy

Agriculture is critical to the economy of the state of Oregon, and the training up of agricultural leaders and producers is important to the continuance of this vital element to the state.

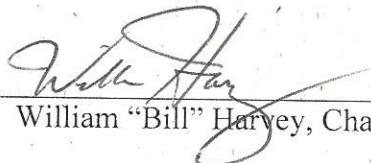
This legislation will continue the support of young people within the state, as they learn not only about agriculture, but also the interrelationship of conservation and the production of food.

The Agriculture Education model is a tested and true program that grows innovative leaders, willing to tackle the future solutions in the food, fiber, and fuel industries that revolve around agriculture. We thank you for considering the future of our industry, our state, and our educational programs that make positive impacts on young people's lives.


Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Baker County Board of Commissioners


William "Bill" Harvey, Chairman


Mark E. Bennett, Commissioner


Bruce A. Nichols, Commissioner

cc: Representative Greg Barreto
Representative Susan McLain
Joint Committee on Student Success