

Paul L Evans
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
DISTRICT 20



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

March 19, 2019

Committee on Economic Development
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court Street NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

Ref: House Bill 2890

Dear Colleagues:

House Bill 2890 (HB 2890) is offered to supplement our ongoing statewide investments in career and technical education (CTE) opportunities. At this moment in schools across Oregon young minds – and some not-so-young minds – are engaging new technologies, learning how to optimize “state-of-the-art” 21st Century workplace equipment, techniques, and tools. We are planting the seeds of innovation in the fertile minds of the next generation of inventors, small business owners, and workers.

So why haven't we implemented a statewide methodology for harvest? Why haven't we established access to affordable, available, and perhaps, transformational access to patents – patents resulting from the convergence of emergent technologies and innovative minds? Consider this: we invest hundreds of millions of dollars each, every biennium in learning experiences; we have no existing pathway for schools to optimize these inventions – no direct linkage – from investments to returns. I believe we have emphasized the indirect valuation of CTE quite well. Oregonians inherently understand the necessity of providing the best educational and training experiences for the 21st Century Workplace. But there is more to the story.

Here in Salem, just a few years ago, a student developed a new way to anchor a fencepost. It may well have been patentable: it was distinct, tailored, unusual in many ways. Imagine the possibilities that could be realized with a network in place that would assist schools in identifying potentially patentable products combined with an accessible pathway for transforming ideas into marketable patents: yielding a student a quantifiable product for a global marketplace, or a patent for sale to those who buy patents for production. While there are a range of speculative patent pathways, far too many of these are either beyond the grasp of the average student – or a scheme to steal intellectual property.

In today's increasingly fast-paced marketplace, access to investment capital, especially capital for prospective products, is often reserved for demonstrated capacity of idea to delivery performance. While there are stories of “Angel Networks” assisting start-ups throughout our state, there simply isn't sufficient capital to go around given our circumstances. This process, an accessible, affordable, and available pathway for patents is a critical, missing link in our stateside workplace preparation systems. With this new capability in place we can ensure that the spark of inspiration taking place in our schools today, can become the marketable product – the industry – of tomorrow.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. Together we can transform the workshop classroom into a cradle of innovation and prosperity. Please let me know if you have questions requiring additional clarification.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Paul L. Evans".

Paul L. Evans