



February 8, 2022

Senator Kathleen Taylor, Chair
Senate Committee on Labor and Business
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Support for SB 1545

Dear Chair Taylor and Members of the Senate Committee on Labor and Business:

The City of Hillsboro appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 1545: Future Ready Oregon workforce initiative, which is under your consideration in the 2022 Legislative Session.

The City of Hillsboro believes in investing in workforce infrastructure through collaborative public/private partnerships with government, industry, education, and community-based organization partners. We have seen how these investments are critical to economic vitality and the betterment of communities. With adequate resources, we can leverage and expand partnerships and address the existing inequities in the workforce system while supporting key sectors.

In Oregon, over 13 percent of the state's manufacturing jobs are in Hillsboro. Over the next decade, Washington County is projected to add over 42,000 new jobs to its economy, making it the second highest growth county in the region. With the projected job growth and the current shortage of workforce across sectors, it is critical to dedicate resources to build innovative workforce development programs to include a sustainable, diverse pipeline of talent.

With Future Ready Oregon's proposal to invest in leveraging existing successes, including registered apprenticeship, community college career pathways programs and youth workforce readiness, we believe Hillsboro can play an active role to leverage existing workforce successes that help track residents into skilled, living-wage careers while meeting industry needs.

We write in support of Future Ready Oregon because we believe that it represents an unprecedented opportunity to build on the success of our workforce training initiatives, advance racial and social equity, and increase economic mobility of those most negatively impacted by the pandemic.

We urge you to cast your vote in favor of Future Ready Oregon. If you would like to discuss this topic with us in further detail, we would be happy to do so.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Steve Callaway'.

Mayor Steve Callaway