

Teal Falls LLC

I am writing to support the Barbara Roberts Career Technical Education (CTE) Center in Sheridan, Oregon, and its application to the legislature for \$12 million in construction funds.

There are several reasons for supporting this measure:

1. Career Technical Education programs have proven invaluable in developing critical parts of the workforce, particularly in skilled trades.
2. Students who participate in CTE programs have a much higher completion rate in high school.
3. Kids who complete a CTE program can enter the workforce with a higher wage.
4. The Barbara Roberts Career Technical Education Program can serve as a pilot for Oregon to expand CTE access to rural Oregon students. This will have a significant impact on bridging the Rural/Urban gap. This is an area where we can unify and bridge that gap.
5. The project is shovel-ready and ready for implementation without delay.
6. The project pay-off in ROI will be for decades and generational in students' lives and economic stability.
7. The Barbara Roberts Career Technical Education Center will help address regional and state occupational shortages.

I do not live in the Sheridan district, but I certainly empathize with the parents and grandparents who do. I assisted in the startup of the Salem-Keizer CTEC program and have seen first-hand the value of such programs. My grandson lives in the Salem-Keizer district and hopes to enroll in that program someday.

We need empathetic caring and action on a statewide basis to make systemic change for the better. We need leadership to push the development of rural and urban CTE for future generations. The Sheridan CTE program is hopefully a start of a prolonged effort to provide access across the state. We will be a better state for it.

What you can do:

1. Voice support for this effort.
2. Ask Leadership and your caucus to move it forward with a "Do Pass" recommendation
3. Carry the effort forward to other rural districts in upcoming sessions that could use the support of Oregon in a similar fashion.

I appreciate your help and leadership in this.

Best regards,



Ron Hays
Owner/Consultant - Teal Falls LLC
Silverton, Oregon



**BARBARA ROBERTS CAREER TECHNICAL EDUCATION CENTER:
RURAL/LOW-INCOME CTE FACT SHEET**

UNDERSERVED: RURAL, LOW-INCOME CAREER-TECHNICAL EDUCATION

Small Schools average **1 CTE program**

58% rural schools offer CTE programs

Low-income schools average **2.2 CTE programs**

19% low-income students participate in CTE

*Since 2015, CTE participation increased more in larger districts than in small districts

Large schools average **5.6 CTE programs**

80% schools statewide offer CTE programs

High-income schools average **3.7 CTE programs**

26% non-low-income students in CTE programs

BENEFITS OF CAREER-TECHNICAL EDUCATION FOR STUDENTS

Low-income students **20% more likely to graduate**

Salary after graduation: average **\$2,200 more per year**

Salem-Keizer CTEC: **98%-100% graduation rates** since 2015

92% positive placement rate (higher education or high-wage employment)

CAREER-TECHNICAL EDUCATION CENTERS MORE EFFECTIVE

2% wage increase for each additional year in CTE program concentration

3 or more CTE courses: **42% more likely to graduate**