



SHERIDAN FIRE DISTRICT

230 SW Mill Street • Sheridan Oregon 97378 • (503) 843-2467 • Fax (503) 843-4691

May 1, 2023

To: The Joint Committee on Ways and Means

RE: The Barbara Roberts Career Technical Education Center

Dear Honorable Members of the Ways and Means Committee:

Sheridan Fire District would like to voice its support for the Barbara Roberts Career Technical Education Center (CTEC) in Sheridan and its application to the legislature for \$12 million in construction funds. Sheridan School District purchased the CTEC property with a vision of providing technical training that would provide skilled labor for living wage, high-demand jobs in the local industries. Among the proposed programs of study are *Fire Science, Automotive and Heavy Equipment – Truck, and Logistics & Diesel Mechanics*. What a great opportunity for students in an economically depressed area, many of whom are from historically marginalized demographic backgrounds, to grow and develop skills that will benefit not only themselves and their families, but also the communities in which they live. We want to be part of the success of these students.

As students develop firefighting skills, we would welcome them to become part of our volunteer firefighter force where they could become more proficient in their skills. Experience is vital in the fire service. We would hope that as the program develops we could expand our support and include students in some of our training in addition to what the school district is able to offer.

We believe that now is the best time to invest in rural Oregon through career technical education. The Oregon Legislature has the opportunity to take a lead role in the revitalization of our economy through a \$12 million commitment to this shovel-ready project. The Barbara Roberts CTEC will connect our community and lift the lives of our young people. We respectfully request that the Oregon Legislature join us in the vision for generational impact and commit \$12 million to the development of what we see as a regional training center that will impact the lives of many students.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Les Thomas, Fire Chief
Sheridan Fire District