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Dorie Vickery, Superintendent

February 2024

Dear Representative Elmer & Representative Gomberg,

It is my honor to write a letter of support in favor of the \$5,000,000 Capital Grant for the Barbara Roberts Career Technical Education Center (CTEC) located in my hometown of Sheridan, Oregon. As the Sheridan School Board Chair, I've been working diligently to encourage all community partners, industry partners, and fellow school districts to join together to help make this project happen. Let's all work together to create equity for our students, their future, and our world!

Barbara Roberts CTEC will be a regional facility pulling in students from rural districts across the West Willamette Valley. Why is that important? Because rural districts are historically underserved in comparison to urban schools where students have access to many different CTE pathways right at their fingertips. The students in the rural districts of the West Willamette Valley deserve better!

Let me switch hats for a moment and talk about how important this is as parent of students who could participate in these programs. I have three children in the Sheridan School District of which two of them have already proclaimed they don't have plans to attend college. This is not an unusual statement in our community, in fact a huge majority of our students don't attend college, so why wouldn't we help prepare them for the workforce? Or even just give them an idea of what is out there in the world before they even leave high school? And so many of these pathways lead them directly to further education if they want it! Establishing a regional rural CTEC is a win for everyone no matter their plans after high school.

Here is another prime example of the power of our rural communities, I'm going to switch hats one more time and speak as a small business owner. As a small business owner and local farmer, I see the value of CTE because of the workforce development. Hiring students to work summer jobs, internships or even future long-term employees who come out of high school wanting to learn and grow while earning a paycheck. All of these possibilities get me excited to watch Barbara Roberts CTEC come together!

So, as a person who wears many hats in a small rural community, I hope you can join me in supporting the Barbara Roberts CTEC. Not only for students but parents, community members, industry partners and fellow rural districts. Let's make Oregon better, one rural regional CTEC facility at a time!

Sincerely,

Samantha Bagby
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