



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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April 7, 2022

Congresswoman Suzanne Bonamici
District Office
12725 SW Millikan Way
Suite 220
Beaverton, OR 97005
Email contact: Al.Bannan@mail.house.gov

RE: **Community Project Funding Request** for Barbara Roberts Career Technical School

Dear Congresswoman Bonamici:

The Yamhill County Board of Commissioners strongly supports the Community Project Funding application for the Barbara Roberts Career Technical School (BRCTS) in Sheridan, Oregon.

The funding for the Barbara Roberts Career Technical School will provide a critical pathway for rural students in Yamhill County to successfully graduate high school with employable skills, have immediate opportunities for licensure and workforce training, and create the pipeline of qualified individuals to fill our local, highly-skilled and technical jobs.

These CTE pathways, especially those that include professional certifications, will help our students enter the workforce in high-demand, high-wage jobs right after graduation. Considering the current critical need for truck drivers in Oregon, BRCTS' truck driving/heavy equipment pathway is just one example of how this school will create the skilled workforce needed to fill these jobs.

The west valley region of Yamhill County has historically been underserved when it comes to local, state and federal support. As a result, these students face higher dropout rates, lack of access to technology in education, and higher rates of teen addiction. This new school represents a pivotal opportunity to set Yamhill County students on a path to economic success.

Workforce development has become essential in our congressional district to sustaining economic growth and revitalization. As we face the intersection of workforce shortages, aging skilled workers, lack of re-training and certification options, and rising higher education costs, we feel this school is critical for the economic, cultural and equitable access goals we share for Yamhill County.

Please approve the funding request for the Barbara Roberts Career Technical School.

Respectfully,

Lindsay Berschauer
Chair

Casey Kulla
Vice-Chair

Mary Starrett
Commissioner

Accepted by Yamhill County
Board of Commissioners on
4/7/22 by Board Order
22-110