

## **OREGON STATE SENATE**

April 18, 2025

Obadiah Rutledge Secretary of the Senate

RE: Vote Explanation for Senate Bill 784

Dear Secretary Rutledge,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide my vote explanation for Senate Bill 784. I applaud my colleague, Senator Nash, for bringing this bill forward in support of workforce development and education in agriculture, forestry, and natural resources. I did however vote no on this bill in committee and on the floor because I read testimony submitted by the Higher Education Coordinating Commission and Southern Oregon University that gave me pause. They stated that SB 784 does not change the existing statewide dual credit standards. Agriculture, forestry, and natural resources courses are already covered under current statute, which apply to all academic disciplines. Also mentioning that state standards already include these fields, SB 784 does not introduce new mandates, operational changes, or expand opportunities beyond what is currently available. They felt these would be redundant standards that would increase reporting and administrative requirements.

I am a strong supporter of Career Technical Education and the opportunities CTE brings for students across Oregon and their future. I would not want to do anything that could make access more difficult, this bill may very well end up having an unintended consequence and do just that.

For these reasons I voted no on Senate Bill 784.

Thank you,

Senator Janeen Sollman Senate District 15

Janean Sallman