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Republicans Lead Effort to Expand Career Pathways in Agriculture, Forestry, and Natural Resources

SALEM, Ore. – The Senate Education Committee on Monday held public hearings on three bills introduced by **Senator Todd Nash (R-Enterprise)** in partnership with **Representative Bobby Levy (R-Echo)** to expand career pathways for students and strengthen Oregon’s workforce in agriculture, forestry, and natural resources.

“Oregon’s agriculture, forestry, and natural resource industries are the backbone of our economy, but they need a skilled workforce to remain strong,” said **Senator Nash**. “These bills ensure students have access to the education, industry connections, and instructors they need to succeed. By expanding dual credit programs, ensuring students get recognized for hands-on learning, and investing in future educators, we are building a pipeline for the next generation of leaders in these critical fields.”

Expanding Access to Dual Credit & Career Pathways: SB 784 & SB 786

- **SB 784** expands Oregon’s dual credit programs to include agriculture, forestry, and natural resource courses, allowing high school students—particularly in rural areas—to earn college credit while preparing for careers in foundational industries.
- **SB 786** ensures students receive academic credit at public colleges and universities for participating in Career & Technical Student Organizations (CTSOs) like Future Farmers of America (FFA) and Future Natural Resource Leaders (FNRL).

Ensuring Qualified Educators for High School Agriculture & Natural Resource Programs: SB 785

- **SB 785** establishes the Agriculture Education Scholarship Program, covering tuition for students pursuing degrees in agriculture, forestry, and natural resource education, provided they commit to teaching in rural communities after graduation.

Senate Bills 784, 785, and 786 work together to ensure students have access to industry-relevant coursework, scholarship support for aspiring educators, and academic credit for hands-on leadership experiences.

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