



College of Engineering

Oregon State University, 101 Covell Hall, Corvallis, Oregon 97331-2409

T 541-737-3101 or 1-877-257-5182 | F 541-737-1805 | E info@enr.oregonstate.edu | <http://www.enr.oregonstate.edu>

Testimony in Support of Oregon Manufacturing Innovation Center – HB 5505 Dr. John Parmigiani

Joint Ways & Means Subcommittee On Capital Construction

May 12, 2017

Members of the Committee:

Good afternoon. My name is John Parmigiani. I am a faculty member in the School of Mechanical, Industrial, and Manufacturing Engineering in the College of Engineering at Oregon State University. A significant portion of my faculty assignment includes serving as permanent research staff to the Oregon Manufacturing Innovation Center (OMIC). I am here to testify in support of capital investments in the OMIC R&D facility, representing Dean Scott Ashford and the College of Engineering. OSU's College of Engineering is the 11th largest college of engineering in the nation with nearly 9,000 students, 180 faculty and a \$40 million research mission.

OMIC is creating a collaborative environment that brings together industry, higher education, and government in partnership to develop new tools, techniques, and technologies to address near-term manufacturing challenges through applied research and advanced technical training. OMIC will be a catalyst to enhance the competitiveness of the manufacturing industry serving companies of all sizes through an industry-driven collaborative. The goal is to bring together the region's workforce and innovation assets to create a critical mass for advanced manufacturing in Oregon.

As the state's largest public research university we see OMIC as fulfilling our land-grant mission to serve the public good. OSU has been both an early supporter and key investor in OMIC. We have specifically committed \$100,000 per year for the next five years to cover R&D facility operating costs; we have appointed Associate Dean for Research, Dr. Irem Tumer, as OSU board member for OMIC R&D; and have dedicated Dr. John Parmigiani as permanent research staff to OMIC at 20% FTE.

OMIC brings great value to our faculty for our research and for our educational missions. OSU has world-class engineering faculty with expertise in advanced manufacturing, metallurgy, engineering design and robotics. Many, particularly those recently hired, are interested in conducting industry-relevant research. OMIC will provide a highly effective means of facilitating, enhancing, and expanding this research in three primary ways. First, it will provide a means of connecting faculty with industry personnel and identifying highly relevant project topics to address pressing needs. Second, it will provide a facility with the latest cutting-edge equipment to conduct this research. Third, it will provide funding to support graduate students to perform this research and obtain an education combining the best of academia and industry.

In conclusion, we are excited to be part of this effort. The facility and the research opportunities it enables will bring new industry to the state of Oregon. The potential acquisition of large manufacturing equipment will open up new opportunities for research collaborations between industry and universities, and provide a testbed for demonstration of fundamental research ideas. These collaborations have the potential to create partnerships and cost share in federal grants such as Manufacturing USA (NNMI) institutes. The collaboration with the *OMIC Training Center* that is being built by Portland Community College (PCC), will bring workforce development opportunities with hands-on, earn-as-you-learn training programs, and as well as help strengthen our undergraduate programs in advanced manufacturing by providing experienced students trained by OMIC.