

Submitter: Lynn Stephan

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Semiconductors

Measure: SB4

Microchip Technology is currently collaborating with Onsemi and Mt Hood Community College on a grant that brings the classroom to our business and assists employees in reducing the risk of learning a new field, in this case Mechatronics, by pre-paying their course tuition and allowing them to build their confidence in being successful at taking a college level class. The first two classes, Measurement Tools and AC/DC Theory, will start next week. Originally, we were worried about meeting the minimum number of students needed to run this course, thinking it would be difficult to find 10 employees who would want to attend. We had 60+ employees express interest in attending at Microchip Technology alone. We have had to cap registrations and need to push 2/3 of the employees out to potential next offerings. However, grant money is only available through June with no guarantee of being able to sustain such a popular program in the future.

Support for SB4 could ensure that we would be able to offer this program again, several times over, and help our entry level employees move from "just a job" to a career with Microchip Technology as a technician. Workforce development is an ongoing process that requires consistent support and funding. Without it, Oregon will struggle to be a player in a global economy.

Sincerely,

Lynn Stephan, CPTD | Sr. Mgr, Mfg Training and Organizational Development