



Klamath Falls, Feb 28, 2023

**Chairs Bynum, Sollman, and Members of the Joint Committee on Semiconductors:**

For the record, my name is Arief Budiman and I am the Director of the Oregon Renewable Energy Center (OREC) and a professor at Oregon Tech in Klamath Falls in Manufacturing, Mechanical Engineering, and Technology (MMET) Department. I am one of the world's leading experts in mechanics and reliability of advanced and nanoscale materials and cutting-edge semiconductor and energy devices. As a professor and an industry expert, I am testifying today in support of additional investments in workforce development and talent within the semiconductor package.

As an industry expert, I know that one of the main reasons a company decides to locate or not locate facilities in a given area is the availability of workforce and talent. For Intel, it was widely reported that workforce was one of the main factors in locating its foundry in Ohio over Oregon. This decision wasn't surprising, considering that Oregon ranks 45<sup>th</sup> out of 50 when it comes to state funding per-full time enrolled student.

I know this committee is considering several key provisions to ensure that Oregon is competitive in attracting industry and seeking federal investments. I applaud the work that you are doing, and I hope that you will remember the key role that public higher education plays in these efforts.

Public universities are the hubs of research in Oregon, and I appreciate the inclusion of the University Innovation and Research Fund in this bill. However, if we are truly going to be competitive in seeking transformational federal CHIPS and Science Act investments, additional funds will be needed.

Additionally, at Oregon Tech, and at Oregon's other public universities and community colleges, we are training the workforce necessary to support the semiconductor industry, but if we want to increase those efforts to better attract industry, we need a strengthened partnership with the state through targeted investments. I urge this committee to invest in programs like the Engineering Technology Sustaining Fund, which has a demonstrated track record of increasing the engineering workforce in Oregon.

Thank you for your time and service to our state. Please let me know if there is anything I can do to support the process as you develop a package designed to support and grow this critical industry in Oregon.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "A. Budiman", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

**Arief Budiman, Ph.D (Stanford)**  
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