



April 07, 2023

Chair Meek  
Committee On Finance and Revenue  
Oregon State Senate  
900 Court St. NE Salem, OR 97301

Re: Senate Bill 1084

Dear Meek and members of the Committee,

My company, Willamette Technical Fabricators, is a custom complex metal manufacturing company focused on transportation and clean energy infrastructure, including bridges, hydropower dams, and developing innovative solutions to help Oregon become more resilient and energy-independent. One such project is a pumped storage hydropower project near Klamath Falls, that will serve as a gravity battery for wind and solar power. Another is the planned floating offshore wind farm near Coos Bay, that will create a clean energy hub in a place that desperately needs more good jobs. Both of these projects require fabrication of massive steel tubes, up to thirty feet in diameter, that my company will manufacture. The scale here is important. A single floating offshore wind turbine platform requires 5000 tons of steel, equivalent to half an Eiffel tower. In order to manufacture these in the US efficiently enough to compete with cheap Chinese steel and labor, we are developing proprietary robotic welding technology that will significantly improve the efficiency of the current state of the art. This technology isn't going to replace people, it's actually going to allow us to create hundreds of high-tech manufacturing jobs, and in line with our current workforce demographics, about half of those will go to women and people of color, helping Oregon meet our equity goals and our decarbonization goals at the same time.

But all of this first requires huge up front investments in R&D, and the federal tax credits, and programs like the Small business innovation research program, are not enough to scale at the rate we need to meet the huge clean energy infrastructure demand and our own state's ambitious targets. Passing Senate Bill 1084 sends a clear message the Oregon values innovation, and wants to retain and attract clean tech & advanced manufacturing companies, and support them in the risky and expensive work of research & development that is so necessary to create jobs, improve our competitiveness, and develop solutions to some of the world's toughest problems. Thank you for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alicia Chapman".

**Alicia Chapman** (she/her)  
**Owner & Chief Executive Officer**  
**[Willamette Technical Fabricators](#)**