Testimony by Craig Campbell before the Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Transportation and Economic Development – March 22nd, 2023

Co-Chair Woods, Co-Chair Gomberg, members of the committee,

For the record, my name is Craig Campbell, and I am the Executive Director of the Oregon Manufacturing Innovation Center for Research & Development testifying in support of HB 5524 that funds the Oregon Business Development Department or Business Oregon.

OMIC R&D is a collaborative of over 40 organizations including 38 manufacturing related companies from the region, across the country and across the globe. We engage in applied research & development activities to help manufacturers overcome pain points in the manufacturing line and to help them to produce whatever they do, **better, more efficiently, greener, and less expensively**.

In addition, with our partners Portland Community College, the Northwest Stem Hub and the local school districts, we provide ways to inspire students to pursue a career in manufacturing and make sure there is training available to meet the workforce needs of industry.

But I am here today to support the work being done by Business Oregon, who administers the grant used to support OMIC R&D's operations. In this, they have made sure to provide good, diligent, responsible oversight. But this you would expect from any competent agency.

Where Business Oregon has truly shown its strength and leadership is by understanding the challenges and opportunities OMIC R&D has faced over the almost five years we have been in operation. In this short time we have transitioned from an empty building and a vision to a fully functioning R&D center producing research that solves manufacturing challenges. Business Oregon has been an active partner in our development and success, both providing value to us, and taking advantage of what OMIC R&D has to offer as they engage in economic development activities across the state, globally, and in other sectors of Oregon's economy. They have not been an arm's length administrating agency. In addition to holding us accountable for our use of public funds, they have taken the critical step of being a collaborative partner with us. So, when we seek to pursue opportunities, their familiarity with our vision and capability has allowed them to assist and often catalyze our efforts to take advantage of those opportunities.

As a result of their oversight, OMIC R&D has not only grown; we have thrived:

- **OMIC R&D** has 41 members including 37 industry members from across the globe who provide their expertise, tooling and equipment, and 3 Oregon universities — Oregon Tech, Oregon State University and Portland State University — who provide the knowledge and ingenuity of their researchers and laboratories. Oregon Tech also serves as our fiduciary host.

- **OMIC R&D** has leveraged $15 million in funding from its private sector members for research to advance the manufacturing sector, and in tooling and equipment to allow OMIC R&D to conduct world class research.
- **OMIC R&D** successfully leverages its membership to benefit the high school Career Technical Education (CTE) programs by providing training, tooling, software, and other critical supplies that those programs cannot afford.
- **OMIC R&D** is developing a virtual reality learning platform (VR) with training modules for high school programs. Once completed, OMIC R&D will provide these CTE training modules to any high school in the State of Oregon at no cost.
- **OMIC R&D** has completed 40 applied, industry directed General Research Projects for its members and 21 Specific Research Projects for member and non-member companies, most of which are Oregon-based.
- **OMIC R&D** has held summer internships for 48 High School and College students.
- **OMIC R&D** opens the Additive Innovation Center (AIC) April 11th. Unique in the world of research for utilizing all seven metal 3D printing technologies, the primary purpose of the center will be to test these technologies and verify how they can be used by small and medium Oregon metals manufacturers. By enabling Oregon businesses to safely invest in metals 3D printing technologies, OMIC R&D will support the building of a resilient local supply chain resistant to economic fluctuations and give Oregon manufacturers an advantage in the global marketplace.

Our successes would not have been possible without the support of the Oregon Legislature, The Governor, and Business Oregon. In this I would like to specifically call out the contributions of the following Business Oregon staff:

- Kate Sinner the Innovation and Business Resources Director,
- Melanie Olson our Regional Development Officer, and
- especially Business Oregon's Innovation and Entrepreneurship Manager Mark Brady

Co-Chair Woods, Co-Chair Gomberg and committee members, that concludes my testimony, and I would be happy to answer any questions the committee may have. I would also like to extend an invitation to the members of the committee to allow me to show you OMIC R&D and the new Additive Innovation Center after you have completed session.