Chair Woods, Chair Gomberg and members of the Committee.

My name is Kanth Gopalpur and I am a retired businessman and investor from Multnomah County. I also currently serve as the Chair of the Business Oregon Commission. I'd like to thank you for giving me the time to advocate for the importance of the work of Business Oregon

Oregon is on the cusp of unprecedented investment to the state. The federal government is doubling down on industrial policy in several industries that are most vital to Oregon. The first one of these opportunities is the CHIPS Act, which focuses on semiconductor research and manufacturing. This is an industry critical to Oregon's economy, employing tens of thousands of Oregonians and driving our economic output.

In addition, the Federal government is seeding investments in several industries that are most vital to our state—infrastructure, advanced manufacturing, broadband, and green energy. All of these initiatives provide a tremendous opportunity for Oregon and we need to position ourselves to take advantage of these federal investments and play a leadership role in the new economy.

Business Oregon has shown itself to be a good steward of public funds, and an able convener and facilitator of various

legislatively mandated programs. In order to continue to do their jobs effectively, fulfill their vision of recruiting businesses into Oregon and help home grown businesses expand, it is important that the agency's requests for funding in programs such as the Advanced Manufacturing Opportunity Fund, Rural Opportunity Initiative, and Broadband be approved.

Additionally, to ensure that Business Oregon continues to improve its customer service delivery in the upcoming biennium it is important that agency requests for IT Modernization and Technical Assistance Programs be fully capitalized

Lastly, while the proposed funding levels will help Business Oregon advance its priorities of spurring innovation, creating rural economic stability, and increasing opportunities for underrepresented people statewide, it is critical that the agency is staffed at a commensurate level to appropriately execute the various programs under its purview.

Thank you for giving me this time to advocate on behalf of Business Oregon and its programs.