



February 5, 2024

Representative Paul Holvey, Chair  
House Committee on Business and Labor  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301

**RE: Support for HB 4118**

Dear Chair Holvey and Members of the House Committee on Business and Labor:

Despite having one of the highest concentrations of workforce talent for advanced manufacturing and semiconductors – a competitive advantage for our state to be sure – Oregon must continue to build a workforce pipeline relative to these industries to secure our competitive advantage into the future. That is one reason why the City of Hillsboro was excited to support the development of the Hillsboro School District’s Youth Apprenticeship Program.

The other reason is that these industries provide an incredible opportunity for low-barrier, well-paying career opportunities for community members. We know that our K-12 students don’t often realize that family wage job opportunities exist right in their community, and that the jobs don’t require extensive and expensive higher education. The Hillsboro Youth Apprenticeship program provides an opportunity for high school students to work part time in the advanced manufacturing and semiconductor industry while receiving credit towards their apprenticeship for their STEM course work while in school. The Hillsboro Youth Apprenticeship Program benefits our community, the industry, and our state.

Although there have been recent challenges for the Hillsboro Youth Apprenticeship Program relative to how the Bureau of Labor and Industries (BOLI) has assessed their approved competency-based program, we are pleased that BOLI is advancing an administrative process to restore long-term certainty to the program. We thank Representative Sosa for his work to ensure the administrative solution is acted upon.

We also thank Representative Sosa for his leadership to start the process of creating a statewide policy framework for youth apprenticeship programs through HB 4118. Our understanding is that BOLI will research successful models for youth apprenticeship programs if this legislation is approved this session. Once that work is completed, our understanding is that Representative Sosa will convene interested stakeholders to work on a recommendation to the 2025 Legislature that is tailored to Oregon and based on best practices. We look forward to participating in that conversation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Andy Smith'.

Andy Smith  
Government Relations Manager