



February 6, 2024

**TO:** Members of the House Committee on Higher Education

**FR:** Katie Koenig, Oregon Business & Industry

**RE:** Oregon Business and Industry's Support of HB 4154

---

Oregon Business & Industry (OBI) is a statewide association representing businesses from a wide variety of industries and from each of Oregon's 36 counties. In addition to being the statewide chamber of commerce, OBI is the state affiliate for the National Association of Manufacturers and the National Retail Federation. Our 1,600 member companies, more than 80% of which are small businesses, employ more than 250,000 Oregonians. Oregon's private sector businesses help drive a healthy, prosperous economy for the benefit of everyone.

OBI appreciates the work done by the Semiconductor Competitiveness Task Force, legislators and other stakeholders to pass the semiconductor package during the 2023 session. As we noted at the time, that legislation is a great starting point. The Oregon CHIPS Fund investments the Legislature approved last year will create an estimated 6,300 jobs in the semiconductor industry and 1,000 additional construction jobs. To produce the well-trained workforce needed to fill those jobs, additional investment is needed in talent development.

OBI supports HB 4154, which would establish the Semiconductor Talent Sustaining Fund. The bill would provide critical investments in STEM education, workforce training and advanced-degree workforce training. These programs will help Oregonians qualify for family wage jobs, further the state's commitment to the semiconductor industry and bolster Oregon's economy.

OBI urges you to support this bill.

*Contact: Katie Koenig, OBI, [katiekoenig@oregonbusinessindustry.com](mailto:katiekoenig@oregonbusinessindustry.com)*