



WE SUPPORT HB 4154

February 6, 2024

Dear Chair Lively, Vice Chairs Ruiz and McIntire, and members of the Committee,

We write to urge your support of HB 4154, the Semiconductor Talent and Workforce bill.

If passed, HB 4154 would create a statewide semiconductor industry consortium that would leverage the expertise of industry, educational institutions, workforce and community organizations to create a comprehensive strategy to guide investments and build semiconductor education pathways and research capabilities across the state. It also creates the Semiconductor Talent Sustaining Fund and invests \$15 million to build capacity across the K-12 through PhD and research continuum to meet the industry's talent needs. Additionally, the bill includes \$14.9M in direct investments to community colleges and universities to kick start strategic investments in infrastructure, faculty and curriculum to begin meeting the workforce needs of the semiconductor industry.

Oregon is currently home to 15% of the nation's semiconductor workforce. But the opportunities created both by the Federal CHIPS Act and Oregon's CHIPS Fund mean that we need to act quickly and intentionally to grow that workforce to meet the increased industry need. As a result of historic action by the Oregon Legislature and Gov. Kotek, Oregon is anticipating roughly \$40 billion in new semiconductor-related investment over the next several years, leading to the creation of a projected 6,300 jobs in the semiconductor industry. We currently do not train or graduate enough Oregonians to meet that need and don't have a clear plan for getting there. This bill is designed to create that semiconductor talent plan with resources committed to accomplish it.

There are good paying jobs available at all education levels within the semiconductor industry. Of these jobs, 44% require a two-year degree or less. But for many students in Oregon, careers in semiconductor industry and related fields are invisible. Developing a plan and prioritizing funding to ensure that all Oregon students are aware of the opportunities in this industry and have clear pathways for entering, whether that be through a credentialing program or a PhD, are key to strengthening Oregon's position as a leader in semiconductors.

For these reasons, we urge you to pass HB 4154. The opportunities created by the federal government and the passage of the Oregon CHIPS fund are unique and temporary. We must act quickly to ensure we have the strong and diverse workforce needed to solidify Oregon's future as the leader in the semiconductor industry.

Thank you for your consideration of this important bill.

