

Submitter: Karla Flores
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Higher Education
Measure: HB4154

Tuesday, February 6, 2024

Dear Chair Lively and Members of the Committee,

My name is Karla Flores and I currently work full-time as a Mechanical Engineer. I am writing to express my support for HB 4154 currently under consideration by your committee. As an advocate and alumna of Portland State University's Maseeh College of Engineering, I deeply understand the importance of preparing Oregon's workforce for the semiconductor industry.

As a leader in my community, I am well aware there will be thousands of new jobs coming to our state and we must invest in resources to meet the workforce needs of the semiconductor industry. HB 4154 would create a statewide semiconductor industry advisory committee made up of leaders from the industry, leaders from Oregon's public universities & community colleges, nonprofits, and STEM Hubs advising how to best allocate these dollars to maximize this investment. Additionally, HB 4154 would provide direct investments in community colleges & universities to kick-start strategic investments in infrastructure, faculty & curriculum to meet the needs of the industry. Furthermore, I believe this bill would create a more diverse workforce, particularly in Oregon's historically underrepresented community. For our state to compete with other states around the country, this bill is critical in helping attract semiconductor business to Oregon.

In conclusion, I urge you to support HB 4154 as it will strengthen Oregon's economy, provide well-paying jobs to thousands of Oregonians, and create a more diverse workforce.

Thank you for considering my testimony. Your dedication to improving higher education in Oregon is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,
Karla Flores