

February 16, 2026

Senate Committee on Finance and Revenue
RE: Support for SB 1586 – Oregon JOBS Act

Chair Broadman and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce, representing nearly 800 employers and organizations in Lane County, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in **support of SB 1586**. Oregon's long-term economic strength depends on our ability to attract and retain capital-intensive traded-sector industries that create high-wage jobs and expand the tax base. At a time when other states are aggressively competing for industrial investment, SB 1586 takes practical steps to strengthen Oregon's economic competitiveness.

We support several specific provisions in the bill that will directly support industrial growth in regions like Eugene and Springfield:

- **Modernization and expansion of research and development incentives**, encouraging companies to conduct advanced research, product development, and commercialization activities in Oregon.
- **Incentives that support capital investment in machinery and equipment**, helping manufacturers reinvest in modernized facilities and advanced production technologies.
- **State agency permitting transparency and timeline provisions**, which require agencies to establish and publish permitting deadlines. Predictable and efficient permitting processes are consistently cited by employers as a key factor in site selection and expansion decisions. Greater transparency and timeliness help reduce uncertainty and improve Oregon's competitiveness.

We also support the land and site readiness provisions included in the bill that are focused on the Portland metropolitan area. While geographically specific, the large-scale advanced manufacturing and technology investments these provisions are designed to attract generate ripple effects throughout Oregon's economy. Major projects drive supply chain demand, workforce needs, research collaboration, and secondary business growth in communities across the state, including in Lane County. Strengthening Oregon's ability to compete for those transformative investments benefits the entire state.

Lane County is home to world-class traded-sector industries that are actively investing in advanced technologies. Our regional economy includes advanced manufacturing, clean technology, life sciences, and globally competitive forest products. Most recently, we have seen advanced wood products companies making substantial investments in new facilities, mass timber production, modernized equipment, and expanded capacity. These projects translate directly into new jobs, increased productivity, and stronger local tax bases.

Our industrial base is reinforced by strong research partnerships with regional universities. Nationally recognized mass timber research and development, along with growing biosciences and bioengineering activity associated with the Knight Campus at the University of Oregon, position our region to compete in innovation-driven sectors. Through the Southern Willamette Valley Innovation Corridor, public and private partners are advancing a regional economic development model with timely and tangible results.

At the same time, a 2025 report commissioned by Business Oregon highlighted a concerning trend: segments of Oregon's traded-sector economy are directing expansion investments outside the state. That finding underscores the urgency of ensuring Oregon's policy framework supports reinvestment and growth here at home. When expansions occur elsewhere, Oregon loses jobs, supply chain activity, and long-term revenue growth.

SB 1586 strengthens targeted, performance-oriented tools that influence where companies choose to build and expand. For regions like ours, these provisions are directly tied to real investment decisions happening today. We urge your support of SB1586

Sincerely,



Vonne Mikkelsen

President and CEO, Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce