



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

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March 1, 2023

Co-Chairs Bynum and Sollman, and members of the Joint Committee on Semiconductors,

I had the pleasure of serving on the Semiconductor Competitiveness Taskforce, and co-chaired its Talent and Workforce sub-committee. As you know, the taskforce identified five key areas Oregon needed to address in order to become the global leader in the semiconductor space; land use, regulations, tax incentives, university-industry partnerships and workforce.

I applaud the work you have done to date with SB 4 and would like to encourage an amendment. In the Taskforce report, two of the five areas of focus were connected to higher education. The current legislation does not include dedicated funding for higher education. It was never the vision for the report recommendations to be a menu of options, rather all five areas needed action in order to bring about the desired outcome of Oregon being the world center for semiconductors. I am concerned that if funding for higher education is not addressed as part of SB 4, future funding may not transpire, and a full buildout of the semiconductor ecosystem will not happen.

I have seen the impact of this funding firsthand. MHCC was fortunate enough to receive a \$300,000 Future Ready Oregon workforce grant. With the funding, we purchased six portable AC/DC electrical units to support onsite training. Our first course, Measurement Tools, will be offered at Microchip and onsemi to upskill their incumbent workers. Over 90 employees expressed interest in this class and we are only able to accommodate 48 students. Program demand exceeds our capacity.

These are expensive programs to build, especially for MHCC, who has to use general fund dollars for capital costs because we have not been able to pass a bond since the 1970s. The equipment cost alone for a full-set of portable trainers for 24 students is over \$2 million, and the cost of robots and co-bots (companion robots) can run upwards of \$500,000 for a class of 24 students. Other costs in addition to equipment include faculty and curriculum development.

This is just a small example, but illustrates how dependent we are on funding in order to respond to employer needs. With the student demand and employer support we have, we can deliver on the opportunity the semiconductor industry offers for economic mobility, especially for our traditionally under-resourced Oregonians.

Please amend SB 4 to include dedicated funding for higher education, so we can create the workforce needed for Oregon to become the global leader in the semiconductor industry.

Thank you,

Dr. Lisa Skari