

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

For the record, my name is Jessica Gomez, and I am the Founder and CEO of Rogue Valley Microdevices, a solution-based U.S. foundry specializing in small-batch to low-volume MEMS device fabrication and production for a diverse worldwide customer base. I am deeply committed to corporate-community partnerships, and I have also served as chairman of the board for the Rogue Workforce Partnership, a member of the board of the Oregon Business Council, and a member of the board of trustees of Oregon Tech, Oregon's only polytechnic university. I am testifying in support of additional investments in SB 4 in workforce development and research.

Before founding Rogue Valley Microdevices, I honed my expertise in semiconductor processing and product management. This is an industry I am intimately familiar with, and I appreciate your leadership in addressing the needs of semiconductor and advanced manufacturing businesses, both big and small, here in Oregon. The success of Oregon's semiconductor industry depends on building and attracting a world-class workforce. Workforce is a top factor that drives decisions in where business leaders invest. Oregon boasts one of the most concentrated centers of semiconductor talent in the world. A diverse mix of production, engineering, and research and development workers are employed here, but shortages in highly skilled and trained workers are a serious production constraint for Oregon semiconductor and advanced manufacturers.

Oregon's education systems are producing tech-savvy graduates, but not enough to meet the industry's large and growing demand. Semiconductor engineering and design drives a strong need for workers with four-year degrees, and research requires graduate degrees. Currently, many of these highly-skilled workers are recruited from outside of Oregon. It's critical that this semiconductor package provides investments in public higher education, and specifically in Oregon's public universities, to help fill the industry's workforce needs with qualified Oregonians. I know that we have extremely talented young people who can do great things, if given the opportunity and resources.

My introduction to the industry came from a chance encounter with a friend that led to a position working as a lab operator. I hope that investments in our semiconductor workforce include investments in pipeline programs that will allow institutions of public higher education to build the diverse workforce that industry needs to thrive.

Thank you for your leadership and consideration of ~~the~~ these investments in the semiconductor and advanced manufacturing industry.

Sincerely,

Jessica Gomez

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jessica Gomez".