

Testimony 3/3/21

Co Chairs and members of the committee

My name is Dr. Graham Tewksbury, I am the director of the Materials and Manufacturing Research Institute at Portland State University. I am speaking in support of house bill 5023, specifically one their programs, the Oregon Metals Initiative.

The MMRI has been a successful institute at PSU for over 20 years. The OMI program has been a major contributor to that success. For example, in this fiscal year approved OMI projects would have been 80% of the overall MMRI Budget.

There are numerous impacts of OMI funding on the program, I would like to highlight three.

First being the impact of the University/industry partnerships of student success. Through OMI research projects students are exposed to industrially relevant problems, career paths and opportunities that they would not otherwise be made aware of. Furthermore, these industry relationships help keep the placement rate for the MS MSE program at 100%, despite the pandemic.

Secondly, the breadth of the research and research partners. There are 15 companies with whom the PSU team has run multiple projects over the years. These companies represent large and small metals related manufactures from around the state.

Finally, the effect of long-term funding. OMI funds were used to acquire the Gleeble 1500 in 1990, Oregon Inc funds were used to acquire the Gleeble 3500 in 2008. The Gleeble is thermomechanical test unit that is capable of mimicking most metals processes. It is one of the most heavily used pieces of equipment in the lab. 9 of the last 14 OMI projects at PSU have relied on this equipment. The OMI projects are the reason that the PSU system is the most active university Gleeble in the United States. All of this work supported by OMI research funds helps provide a competitive advantage to Oregon metals companies.