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ENVIRONMENT  
INVESTIGATIONS AND OVERSIGHT

Testimony of Representative Suzanne Bonamici  
Oregon Joint Committee on Semiconductors  
February 13, 2023

Thank you, Co-Chairs Sollman and Bynum, Co-Vice Chairs Knopp and Wallan and committee members. For the record, my name is Suzanne Bonamici; I represent Oregon's 1st Congressional District in the US House of Representatives. Prior to joining Congress, I served in the Oregon House and Oregon Senate. Some of my former colleagues still serve and I hope they are engaged in this important issue.

I am glad to be here virtually to provide an update on the implementation of the CHIPS + Science Act, which I helped to pass last year in the 117<sup>th</sup> Congress, and to express my support for this committee and this legislative body taking action to put Oregon in the best possible position to seize the opportunities available under this Act.

The district I represent includes most of Washington County and the Silicon Forest so I know the value that the large, medium, and small companies in the semiconductor industry bring to the local economy. I was pleased to host my colleague Steny Hoyer at Analog Devices in Beaverton this past summer as Congress was considering the CHIPS Act and to showcase the importance of this industry and its potential for growth. I am looking forward to visiting Siltronic in NW Portland later this month. The significance of this industry ripples across the state and its benefits extend far outside the metro region.

The CHIPS and Science Act strengthens our scientific enterprise, bolsters research and development, grows the domestic semiconductor manufacturing base, and brings onshore critical supply chains. It includes \$52 billion for semiconductor manufacturing – that's the CHIPS part – and \$170 billion for education, R&D, commercialization, and funding for colleges and universities to develop STEM talent and diversify the semiconductor and advanced manufacturing workforce – that's the + Science part. Together they create a game-changing investment to revitalize and grow this industry in the United States.

The skilled semiconductor workforce in Washington County has the potential to grow. Students in PCC's semiconductor workforce program are enthusiastic to enter and advance in this field. I was honored to have PCC President Dr. Adrien Bennings as my State of the Union guest last week. I appreciated hearing President Biden promote domestic manufacturing and good-paying jobs in the industry—many of which don't require a 4-year degree. Here in Washington County, Century High School in Hillsboro created an apprenticeship program connecting high school students to the semiconductor field with paid, on-the-job training and skills. I spoke with several students in these programs, and I can tell you that they are excited about their future. Investment in this industry creates more opportunities for our current and future workforce.

The Law establishes a pilot program to recruit and retain STEM teachers to replicate this type of education. My Building STEAM Education Act is included in the legislation; STEAM is about integrating arts and design into STEM curriculum, expanding creativity and making STEM accessible to more students.

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I am excited for the full implementation of the CHIPS and Science Act and I look forward to seeing how it will boost the production capacity and output of cutting-edge industries in Oregon while creating opportunities to expand and diversify the workforce.

The Commerce Department's website, CHIPS.gov, has a lot of resources, including recorded and upcoming webinars. I recommend joining the mailing list for future updates. I am glad to see the urgency in Oregon to take advantage of these opportunities and I want to see Oregon fully benefit.

There are three notices of funding opportunities coming from the Department of Commerce in the next several months. Later this month, the Department will release the funding opportunities for commercial leading-edge, current, and mature node fabrication facilities, both "front-end" semiconductor manufacturers and "back-end" packaging facilities.

In the late spring, the funding opportunities will be released for material suppliers and equipment manufacturers.

And in the early fall, the notice of funding opportunities will be released for the construction of semiconductor R&D facilities that will further strengthen the U.S. semiconductor manufacturing ecosystem.

Stay tuned for future announcements with guidance, processes, and timelines to apply for CHIPS incentives. After the first announcement, the Department will allow all companies across the semiconductor supply chain an opportunity to submit a short statement of interest to inform them of their anticipated interest in CHIPS funding and share initial project visions. Commerce is anticipating 75% of incentives for manufacturing and production will be for leading-edge chips and 25% will go to legacy chips, materials, and supply chain. These will be investments in the community with broad economic advantages, not only for individual businesses.

The Industrial Advisory Committee also had a second public meeting where they provided advice on the R&D programs and other advanced microelectronics activities funded through the CHIPS for America program under NIST, the National Institute of Standards and Technology.

The Department also plans to release a vision and strategy paper for the National Semiconductor Technology Center; a public-private partnership that will be a place to solve the most pressing concerns and possibilities in semiconductor landscape.

I would like to thank the committee, the legislature, and Governor Kotek's office for their commitment to position Oregon to compete for these opportunities. I appreciate the work to act quickly to best position Oregon for success and the longer-term work to consider additional policies and investments that will allow Oregon to fully leverage these federal funds.

My team and I are a resource to you, and we will share new information broadly. Thank you and I am happy to answer any questions from the committee.