

February 22, 2023

Chairs Sollman and Bynum, Vice Chairs Knopp and Wallan, and members of the Joint Committee on Semiconductors:

Thank you for your leadership and commitment to expediting a policy package to attract transformational private and federal investment in Oregon. On behalf of the Oregon Biosciences Association, I am writing today to express support for the work done so far, and to encourage the committee to do more by including in the semiconductor package the simple extension of three critical economic development programs: the Enterprise Zone Program, Gain Share Credits and the Regionally Significant Industrial Sites Program.

As you have previously heard in testimony and as recommended by the Oregon Semiconductor Competitiveness Task Force, the innovative property tax abatement opportunities offered through the Enterprise Zone and Gain Share programs are essential to industry expansions in this state, and must continue in order for our state to stay competitive in attracting and maintaining members of the high-tech business sector. The Regionally Significant Industrial Sites program is another critical tool in that toolbox, offering state income tax reimbursements for approved industrial site readiness activities.

The Oregon Biosciences Association strongly supports inclusion of these three programs in the semiconductor package. While semiconductors are an important component of many emerging and existing biotech firms, each of these programs can also be critical to retaining and growing our existing bioscience ecosystem here in Oregon. Our members use, or could use, all of these tools to grow our state's biosciences industry.

Members of the Oregon Biosciences Association conduct cutting-edge research and development of innovative healthcare, agricultural, and environmental, biological, and medical technologies. Our members span the industry, from entrepreneurial startups developing a first product to large multinational therapeutic and device companies. We also represent the state's biotech research institutions, service providers to the industry, and academic centers of learning. As measured by our 2022 economic impact study, our growing bioscience industry has created nearly 66,000 jobs and \$16 billion of total economic activity in Oregon, as well as \$1.7 billion in tax and fee revenues for the State and for local governments.

When businesses like our members are looking to expand or invest in new manufacturing sites, key considerations include competitiveness from both a cost of construction and operations perspective, and reasonable predictability of costs over a multi-year time horizon.

To maintain that competitiveness and predictability, it is critical that the legislature act this session to extend the sunsets on the Enterprise Zone, Gain Share and Regionally Significant



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Industrial Sites programs. By maintaining and offering these tools, we can solidify Oregon's competitive position for both the semiconductor and the biosciences industry and reap dividends for advanced manufacturing throughout the state.

Sincerely,

Liisa Bozinovic

Oregon Bioscience Association

Executive Director