Co-chairs Bynum and Sollman, thank you for the opportunity to testify today.

My name is Sandhyarani (Sandy) Dash, and I am currently a PhD student at Portland State University. I am here today to encourage the legislature's investment in Oregon's public higher education system as a critical partner in building a diverse, well-trained semiconductor industry workforce.

I graduated with a master's in electrical and computer Engineering from PSU in 2011 and have worked for 12 years in the semiconductor industry, 11 of those were at Intel Hillsboro site.

Today I am a Principal Engineer at Ampere Computing, a semiconductor startup founded by Renee James who was a former President of Intel.

Oregon's public universities paved the way for my success. The work I did at the Maseeh College of Engineering and Computer Science at PSU ensured that I was well-prepared to enter Intel and make immediate impacts.

I specialized in Digital IC Design, Computer Architecture and Embedded Systems during my Masters which helped me to be very successful at various technical roles at Intel such as Micro-architecture design, RTL design, pre-silicon verification, bringing up computer platforms in the lab, firmware architecture and firmware development. Years later when I decided to pursue PhD, I enrolled at PSU again, to learn about the machine learning (ML) revolution. The skills that I have learned through projects, PSU sponsored conferences and workshops have enabled me to research solutions for CPU performance optimization problems using state of the art Neural Network architectures and benefit Ampere Computing.

I thank each of you for your commitment in supporting the semiconductor industry in Oregon and to ensuring that chip research, design and production remains one of Oregon's signature economic engines.

Yet without ongoing investments in university research, higher education, instruction, and pathways from high school to community college to public universities, Oregon cannot meet the current and future needs of the semiconductor industry.

Thank you for your time. I am happy to answer any questions.