



Date: February 6, 2024

To: Chair and members of House Committee on Economic Development and Small Business  
From: Scott Bruun, VP Government Affairs, OBI  
RE: Support for HB 4042 / Oregon Industrial Site Readiness and Loan Fund

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Good afternoon, Chair Bynum and members of the Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 4042.

My name is Scott Bruun, and I am the VP of Government Affairs for Oregon Business & Industry, or "OBI." OBI is a statewide business association representing businesses from a wide variety of industries from each of Oregon's 36 counties. In addition to being the statewide chamber of commerce, OBI is the state affiliate for the National Association of Manufacturers and the National Retail Federation. Our 1,600+ member companies, more than 80% of which are small businesses, employ more than 250,000 Oregonians. OBI's primary mission is to strengthen the business climate in Oregon.

A challenge for job retention and creation in Oregon is the cost and complexity of physical business starts and business expansion. In Oregon, these challenges are exasperated by the relative scarcity of industrial lands related to our stringent land use system, and the subsequent elevated costs that scarcity creates.

The hard costs of converting lands into shovel-ready sites, once they are commercially zoned, are also often prohibitive. Regulatory costs, permitting costs, engineering costs, environmental study and remediation costs, impact statement costs, and the extraordinary costs of new transportation and utility infrastructure, including water, sewer, power, and telecommunications, create an extraordinary burden for local jurisdictions.

These cost challenges make it very difficult for site readiness to occur in a timely or competitive manner. HB 4042, if funded, is not a panacea. But it is the most significant thing the state could do in the short term to relieve some of the pressure. And as a reminder, renewal and funding of Oregon's Industrial Site Readiness Program was a key recommendation of the blue-ribbon 2022 Semiconductor Competitiveness Task Force.

Industrial site readiness is important for Oregon's semiconductor industry just as it is for all of Oregon's advanced manufacturing and traded sector industries. OBI urges your support of HB 4042.

Thank you.  
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