

Written Testimony on Behalf of:

Neslihan Alp, Ph.D.

Dean

College of Engineering, Technology and Management

[neslihan.alp@oit.edu](mailto:neslihan.alp@oit.edu)

Scott A. Ashford, Ph.D., P.E. (California)

Kearney Dean of Engineering

Oregon State University

[scott.ashford@oregonstate.edu](mailto:scott.ashford@oregonstate.edu)

Joseph Bull Ph.D.

Dean

Maseeh College of Engineering and Computer Science

Portland State University

[joseph.bull@pdx.edu](mailto:joseph.bull@pdx.edu)

Robert Guldberg Ph.D.

Vice President and Robert and Leona DeArmond Executive Director

Phil and Penny Knight Campus for Accelerating Scientific Impact

University of Oregon

[guldberg@uoregon.edu](mailto:guldberg@uoregon.edu)

Chair Lively and members of the House Committee on Higher Education,

The Vice Presidents and Deans of Oregon public universities responsible for engineering education ask for your support for HB 4154. We applaud the 2023 Oregon Legislature's and Governor's support of SB 4, which provides financial support that semiconductor and advanced manufacturing companies can use to invest in and expand facilities. The Governor's Office released that SB 4 related industry applications could result in over 6,000 semiconductor sector jobs. Oregon needs to invest in semiconductor pathways and career development to be successful.

HB 4154 is the necessary companion bill to SB 4, providing critical investment to Oregon's K12 pathway programs, community colleges, and universities. As representatives of Oregon's engineering programs, we are aligned that this investment is necessary for us to meet the talent and R&D needs of the state's ecosystem.

Before SB 4, Oregon's elected business and community leaders united behind the Oregon Semiconductor Competitiveness Task Force Report, creating a road map for Oregon. HB 4154 addresses two essential components of the road map needed to build the state's semiconductor ecosystem: 1) Building our R&D strengths and 2) Developing our talent pipeline from entry-level positions to PhDs.

Investments in higher education are critical to advancing Oregon's semiconductor ecosystem and Oregon's ability to compete for federal investment. The National Science Foundation, Department of Energy, National Institute of Standards and Technology, and Department of Defense will release billions of dollars for semiconductor and advanced manufacturing research in the next few years. These programs will accelerate discovery and innovation and require talent development. We are already collaborating on several federal proposals and, without embellishment, spending hundreds of hours communicating with each other, our industry partners, and federal agencies, positioning Oregon to compete for this funding. To compete, our state must also weigh in throughout the ecosystem and beyond the highly valued industry investment support via SB 4.

We see HB 4154 allocations modestly similar to the Engineering Technology Innovation Fund (ETIC), now called the Engineering Technology Sustaining Fund (ETSF). Over 20 years ago, the legislature recognized that Oregon must respond to a changing economy and invest in engineering education. Today, the state and the nation are in similar positions and must invest in semiconductor programs for national competitiveness and security.