



February 26, 2025

Representative Daniel Nguyen, Chair  
Oregon State Capitol  
900 State Street, NE  
Salem, OR 97301

**RE: Support for HB 3100 – Creating a Unified Trade Strategy for Oregon**

Dear Chair Nguyen, Vice-Chair Diehl and Members of the Committee:

We write to share our strong support for HB 3100 and to commend Chair Nguyen and Vice-Chair Diehl for their leadership in bringing this bill forward.

Hillsboro has long forged public private partnerships and invested local resources to lay the foundation for economic growth and prosperity. For the last four decades, in response to the ambitions of the local community to grow a strong industrial base that provided family wage jobs and opportunities for families, the City of Hillsboro and its partners have been planning collaboratively and making coordinated investments in roads, water, wastewater, stormwater, and electricity to develop what is now known as the Silicon Forest. It took years of planning, local investment, and partnerships with private industry to build out what is now a foundational industry for our state and its people. Although Hillsboro is known primarily for its semiconductor and advanced manufacturing industrial base, other traded sector industries, like food processing, help diversify our local and state economy.

Yet Oregon lacks a formal unified trade strategy. HB 3100 would change that and hopefully provide our state and its industries with a plan to grow and thrive on the global stage.

We value all of our businesses and industry. But it is important to highlight how the traded sector economy is a catalyst for downstream economic growth and prosperity. The traded sector economy creates wealth from around the world through exported products. That wealth flows through the local economy to small, main street businesses, and into state coffers through income taxes generated through the strong family wage jobs provided by traded sector industry. At a time when Oregon's business climate is trending in the wrong direction, HB 3100 is a refreshing proposal that could help the state's business climate through shared prosperity. We do recommend the following minor amendment to the base bill.

- On line 9 after Department of Agriculture, add "local economic development professional."

Local economic developers are on the front line and have worked tirelessly to recruit and retain Oregon's existing traded sector industries. They have invaluable knowledge and existing relationships that will be necessary to a successful unified trade strategy. Although HB 3100 may include local economic developers by including "other stakeholders," we think participation of local economic developers is so crucial that they should be unequivocally named in the legislation.

We thank Chair Nguyen and Vice-Chair Diehl for bringing this bill forward and for keeping Oregon's future prosperity front and center.

Sincerely,

Ariel Nelson, Government Relations Manager