

March 19, 2025

Committee on Economic Development, Small Business, and Trade
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Chair Nguyen and Subcommittee Members,

The City of Gresham supports HB 2277-1, which adjusts the Oregon CHIPS fund eligibility requirements to allow companies to draw on these incentives without first having applied to the Federal CHIPS Act. The changes to the current funding program would allow the state to support modernization and expansions at semiconductor manufacturing and supply chain companies in Oregon in the coming year and beyond.

The semiconductor industry is critical to the Oregon economy and this bill will demonstrate further evidence that the State of Oregon supports the continued growth of semiconductor manufacturers and suppliers. The uncertainty around the federal CHIPS program funding should not impact Oregon companies' ability to receive this important funding from the State of Oregon.

Companies, such as Microchip Technology, will use these funds to support their growth in the industry through:

- Expansions & Modernizations
- Recruitments
- Workforce Development

In the City of Gresham, Microchip Technology and ON Semi have been instrumental partners with east Multnomah County school districts, Mt Hood Community College, and community non-profits to develop a strategy for building a future workforce pipeline for the semiconductor and advanced manufacturing industries in east Multnomah County. The goal of this initiative is to expose Gresham youth to job opportunities in these industries and begin to equip them with the necessary skills for future employment.

As an example of exciting programs already underway, Microchip partnered with Mt Hood Community College to kick off its Elevate Careers Semiconductor Technician Training program last year and recently graduated their first cohort of 22 students.

The need for a highly skilled workforce in these industries presents an exciting opportunity to develop this future pipeline from within our community. To do that, the State of Oregon

must continue to support the semiconductor industry which provides essential family wage jobs with advancement opportunities.

The City of Gresham supports HB 2277-1 as currently written and urges the committee to vote yes to move this bill forward.

Sincerely,



Larry Morgan
Chief of Staff