



DRIVING INNOVATION & ECONOMIC GROWTH

RESTORE OMI FUNDING IN HB 5024



Since 1990, the Oregon Metals Initiative (OMI) has been pivotal in advancing Oregon's metal technology and manufacturing sectors. As a 501(c)3 non-profit, OMI supports the state's metals manufacturing ecosystem by funding research and fostering partnerships between Oregon's metals industry and our state's leading research universities.

OMI leverages both public and private funds to stimulate innovation, foster academic and industry collaborations, and drive economic growth.

WHY RESTORED FUNDING IS ESSENTIAL IN HB 5024

Each legislative session, the Oregon legislature allocates funds to the Business Oregon "Business, Innovation, Trade" program, which provides essential support, grants, and loans to assist businesses with job retention and creation, while promoting trade and innovation. Since 1990, OMI has been a key research and development (R&D) initiative within this program to support Oregon's metals industry.

OMI funding has grown with inflation over the 30 years, and was funded at \$2 million for the 2023-2025 biennium. This funding leveraged a matching \$2 million in industry R&D funding.

However, due to legacy costs from previous initiatives and a directive to limit the agency budget request to 1% above the Current Service Level, Business Oregon was forced to make cuts to the Agency Recommended Budget. Consequently, the Oregon Metals Initiative (OMI) was proposed to be cut entirely.

ECONOMIC IMPACT:

Job Creation: OMI-supported projects have created high-paying jobs in Oregon, significantly boosting the local economy.

Industry Growth: OMI has helped local businesses expand by providing access to cutting-edge research and development facilities and expertise.

Tax Revenue: Increased business activity generates additional tax revenue for the state, supporting public services and infrastructure.

TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCEMENTS:

Innovative Research: OMI funds have enabled groundbreaking research in areas such as metal 3D printing, steel heat treating, and metals product design.

Sustainable Practices: Focus on environmentally friendly technologies and processes that reduce waste and energy consumption.

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES:

Student Involvement: OMI provides hands-on research opportunities for students at Oregon State University, Portland State University, Oregon Institute of Technology, and others, enhancing their skills and preparing them for careers in the metals industry.

Workforce Development: By supporting educational programs, OMI ensures a steady pipeline of talent for Oregon's metals sector.

DYNAMIC PUBLIC/PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP

OMI has developed into a dynamic public/private partnership, Governed by a 7-member board of directors, OMI opens the door for Oregon metals companies to conduct R&D using a 1-for-1 match of state dollars to leverage academic guidance, equipment, and faculty expertise from Oregon's research universities.

TESTIMONIALS AND ENDORSEMENTS INDUSTRY LEADERS

“ Oregon Metals Initiative is the perfect symbiosis of government, industry and educational institutions working together to encourage collaboration across the state's metals industry. ”
– DANIEL WIDLUND, WEIR ESCO

“ OMI's support has enabled us to develop new products and improve existing technologies, benefiting both our company and the broader industry. ”
– BEN EICK, ATI

“ Through OMI's invaluable support, we've accelerated our research and development efforts, resulting in significant advancements and enhanced competitiveness in the market. ”
– JARET FRAFJORD, OREGON TOOL

CALL TO ACTION CONTINUED FUNDING IN HB 5024

To sustain the momentum and continue to drive innovation and job creation, we urge lawmakers to maintain funding for the Oregon Metals Initiative within the Business Oregon 'Business, Innovation, Trade' program. This support is crucial for:

- **Job Creation:** Projects supported by OMI have generated high-paying employment opportunities in Oregon, providing a substantial boost to the local economy.
- **Maintaining Global Competitiveness:** Ensuring Oregon remains at the forefront of the metals industry.
- **Supporting Emerging Businesses:** Helping emerging Oregon companies to grow and thrive.
- **Empowering Students:** Providing educational and career opportunities for the next generation.

Visit OREGONMETALS.ORG



Watch our case study video to see how the Oregon Metals Initiative supports OSU's engineering students, fuels innovation, and boosts Oregon's economy.