



March 19, 2025

To: House Committee on Economic Development, Small Business, and Trade
Oregon State Legislature

From: Deanna Palm, President and CEO of the Washington County Chamber of Commerce

Re: Support for House Bill 2277 with the -1 Amendment

Dear Chair Nguyen, Vice Chairs Diehl and Isadore, and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Washington County Chamber of Commerce, I am pleased to submit testimony in strong **support of HB 2277 with the -1 amendment**. The Chamber represents over 800 businesses in Washington County, from Oregon's largest private employer to the small, family-owned businesses that drive local economic growth and prosperity.

For decades, Washington County's business community has worked hand-in-hand with local and state leaders to foster economic development and innovation. This collaboration has made Oregon home to the **Silicon Forest—one of the most significant semiconductor hubs in the nation**. It is not just an industry within our state; it is a defining pillar of Oregon's economic vitality, supporting thousands of jobs and driving innovation that fuels our broader business ecosystem.

The CHIPS Act represents an unprecedented opportunity to strengthen this leadership, ensuring that Oregon remains competitive on the national and global stage. **Semiconductors are the foundation of modern technology, powering everything from smartphones to advanced computing, healthcare, and national defense**. Oregon is uniquely positioned to be a leader in this sector, but without strategic action, we risk falling behind states aggressively competing for the same investments.

Our Chamber members—especially our small businesses—see firsthand how the semiconductor industry's success translates into **higher wages, increased consumer spending, and greater opportunities for local businesses**. Every dollar invested in semiconductor manufacturing has a ripple effect, benefiting retailers, service providers, and supply chain businesses across the state.

Supporting HB 2277 with the -1 amendment is essential to securing these benefits for Oregon's economy. By disconnecting from federal CHIPS Act restrictions, we can unlock greater flexibility in funding for semiconductor businesses that want to expand, innovate, and invest in Oregon. More importantly, this legislation sends a clear message that Oregon is committed to reinforcing its leadership in one of the most critical industries of the 21st century.

Additionally, we urge the Legislature to **build on this momentum by addressing remaining barriers to industrial land development** and ensuring that state policies align with the needs of businesses seeking to grow and create jobs.

The Washington County Chamber of Commerce strongly urges your support of HB 2277 with the -1 amendment.

Thank you for your leadership on this issue and for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully yours,
Deanna Palm