



March 20, 2025

Joint Committee on Ways & Means Subcommittee on Transportation and Economic Development  
HB 5024

Co-Chair Woods, Co-Chair Gomberg, and Members of the Joint Committee on Ways & Means Subcommittee on Transportation and Economic Development,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony regarding funding for the Oregon Manufacturing Innovation Center (OMIC R&D). As partners who actively collaborate with OMIC R&D, we strongly encourage the committee to fully restore the \$1.25 million budget reduction, including necessary inflation adjustments, proposed in the Governor's Recommended Budget.

OMIC R&D has demonstrated substantial economic impact since its inception, securing over \$23.9 million in combined private and federal funding. Of this, \$5,304,384 comes from federal grants—critical dollars that amplify the investments made by private companies like ours. These federal funds help bridge the gap between research and real-world application, allowing OMIC R&D to accelerate innovation, de-risk new technologies, and drive economic growth in Oregon's manufacturing sector.

Collaborations facilitated by OMIC R&D among higher education institutions and industry partners tackle real-world industry challenges head-on. By driving the development of cutting-edge solutions, OMIC R&D enhances manufacturing efficiency, reduces production costs, and helps Oregon remain competitive in an increasingly global market. Furthermore, OMIC R&D's initiatives in workforce development address talent shortages by offering specialized training through partnerships with educational institutions such as PCC, OSU, and Oregon Tech, ensuring professionals entering our workforce have the skills to meet the evolving demands of the manufacturing sector.

Additionally, investments made through OMIC R&D support family-wage employment and stimulate local economies across Oregon, further solidifying the center's role as a cornerstone for regional economic stability and community prosperity. Maintaining robust funding for OMIC R&D is essential for sustaining these beneficial outcomes and supporting continued economic growth within the state.

Reducing OMIC R&D's budget, as currently proposed, threatens these achievements and undermines the valuable support it provides to students, our industry, and communities around Oregon.

We respectfully request your support in fully restoring funding for OMIC R&D to ensure the continued strength, growth, and resilience of Oregon's manufacturing industry and the communities we proudly serve.

Thank you for your leadership and thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Christiaan Desmond".

Christiaan Desmond, Ed.D.

Dean Advanced and Applied Technologies