March 20, 2025

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

Re: House Bill 2277 and the Oregon CHIPS Program

Chair Nguyen and Members of the Committee,

Since 2022, OBC has convened and staffed two Governor-chaired task forces aimed at securing Oregon's place as a leader in the industries of the future: semiconductors and clean tech.

The findings of each report are broadly similar: more resources are needed to attract and retain businesses. To support innovation, we need more development-ready industrial land, and we need to invest in developing our workforce. These efforts require resources which will, in time, pay dividends to the state in the form of jobs, livability and tax revenue.

OBC is in strong support of legislation that keeps SB 4 (2023) funds invested in critical economic development priorities that are so important for creating opportunities for Oregonians and generating new tax revenues. Without action, the remaining funds from SB 4 will revert to the General Fund, and we will lose the opportunity to invest those dollars in attracting employers to the state.

Sincerely,

Andrew Desmond Director, Economic Development Policy Oregon Business Council