

DATE: March 21, 2025

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

FROM: Alex Cuyler, Interim Senior Director for Legislative Policy

RE: HB 2277, relating to semiconductors

Dear Chair Nguyen, Co-Vice Chairs Diehl and Isadore, and members of the House Committee on Economic Development, Small Business, and Trade:

The University of Oregon has reviewed HB 2277, relating to the semi-conductor industry, and the -1 amendment to the measure. We urge you to adopt the amendment into the bill and move it either to the House or to the Joint Ways and Means Committee for further consideration.

We are particularly supportive of additional funding being allocated to the talent acquisition fund; a statutory fund managed by the Higher Education Coordinating Commission. That fund allows institutions of higher education to prepare students today for careers in the semi-conductor industry, to advance research that would benefit the semi-conductor industry, or to otherwise collaborate with the semi-conductor industry in variety of manners.

The University of Oregon is working tirelessly to position ourselves as the premier research University in this space and continues to evolve work housed in the Phil and Penny Knight Campus for Accelerating Scientific Impact. The Campus is specifically designed to advance research that has commercial potential and we're proud of the outcomes:

1. 90% of our graduates are employed in their field of choice within three months.
2. Leading the country for producing the most graduates with master's degrees in physics (for the last five years in a row!).

We understand the Governor's Recommended Budget includes \$10M for this fund. HB 2277 highly consistent with the Governor's proposal. The testimony offered during the meeting on the semi-conductor industry in Oregon focused on how to keep Oregon competitive in this important industry. We believe that full funding for the talent acquisition fund is an important step in that direction.

ELECTRONICALLY SUBMITTED BY ALEX CUYLER

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