Chair Broadman, Vice-Chair McLane, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Michael Sato, and I am a recent graduate of the Microelectronics Technology program at Portland Community College. I completed the Automated Manufacturing degree, where I gained hands-on training in microelectronics, cleanroom protocols, automation systems, computer science, and networking coursework. My goal is to build a long-term career in advanced semiconductor manufacturing here in Oregon.

Before enrolling at PCC, I was trying to find a career path that was both stable and meaningful. I wanted something technical and hands-on, but also something that would lead to real opportunity after graduation. PCC provided a clear and affordable pathway into an industry that is growing in our region.

Throughout the program, we got hands-on training with manufacturing equipment and learned skills that directly align with employer needs. The curriculum prepared us for the exact procedures and skills used in real manufacturing environments. Learning cleanroom protocol, troubleshooting automated systems, and understanding the fundamentals of microelectronics gave me the confidence to step into my current position.

Because of that training and the support of the faculty, I was able to secure an internship with Intel, which led to a full-time position after graduation. That transition has made a significant difference in my life. I am now able to comfortably pay my rent and support myself without financial uncertainty.

The strength of the program also allowed me to return as a tutor for the Microelectronics department. Being able to support current students is especially meaningful to me, because I understand firsthand how strong foundational training can open doors. I have seen several classmates and new students receive the same, or even greater, opportunities that was given.

For students at PCC, advanced manufacturing was not theoretical. It represents our careers, our financial stability, and our ability to remain in Oregon and contribute to its economy. These programs at community colleges create a directly translatable experience from classroom to industry, but that pipeline only works when there are strong, competitive employers investing in growth here in our state.

When Oregon supports advanced manufacturing and semiconductor expansion, it supports students who are working hard to build meaningful, high-wage careers. I am proud to have developed my skills locally, and I hope future students will continue to have the same opportunity: to train in Oregon, work in Oregon, and build their futures here.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Michael Sato