

Chair Broadman, Vice-Chair McLane, and Members of the Senate Committee on Finance and Revenue,

My name is John Worst. I'm 1 of 3 teachers at Forest Grove High School Mechatronics, and I'm personally submitting this letter in support of SB1586 dash 4.

Over the past 9 years, in partnership with PCC MicroTech, FGHS Mechatronics has put mechanical and electrical tools into the hands of students to build foundational troubleshooting skills in order to prepare students for high-tech and advanced manufacturing careers - in many cases, straight out of high school.

For example, Maria graduated from FGHS Mechatronics several years ago and went to work as a technician at Jireh Semiconductor, where her work is now highly sought after amongst teams as a tech level-3. Additionally, Maria fixes and flips cars on her weekends, and Jireh wants to send her to PSU to study electrical engineering. She's busy making stuff happen! That kind of economic hope, drive, and adventure is at the root of what it means to be an Oregonian.

Personally, as a teacher and mentor who lives on the rural outskirts of Silicon Forest, and also as a member of the Oregon Semiconductor Talent Consortium (with \$140M in pending grant applications for advanced manufacturing ecosystem growth), ***it is my hope that the matter before the committee will steward Oregon policy for those following in Maria's footsteps through the many career pathways of the semiconductor and advanced manufacturing ecosystem here in Oregon.***

Our neighbors make up these advanced manufacturing companies and regional partners - they care deeply about creating opportunities for students. I testify to this from my personal experience, as FGHS Mechatronics consistently delivers over 400 student semesters of hands-on instruction and works closely with local industry leaders through our shared industrial advisory board with PCC MicroTech. For example, these leaders set up booths at our 8th grade family night every spring so that students and families understand the reality of these high-tech career pathways and can plan ahead. They donate money to our Mechatronics Club. They inspire and support our hands-on learning curriculum. We are one team working together for the betterment of others.

Thank you for your consideration,

- John Worst