

February 17, 2026

Dear Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue,

Thank you for holding this public hearing. Chair Broadman, members of the committee, for the record my name is Janelle Bynum. I am here as a businesswoman, mom of four, and concerned citizen.

I also proudly represent Oregon's fifth congressional district which includes Portland, Bend, West Linn, Albany, Oregon City, Scio, Redmond Lake Oswego and Happy Valley in the United States Congress.

I'm here to testify on Senate Bill 1586, the Oregon Jobs Act.

We all love Oregon. And I want nothing more than for my kids to be able to get a good education, get a good job, and be able to afford to stay here in this great state. But, our current job market and business environment is standing in the way of that for too many young Oregonians. We've lost thousands of jobs in the last year, expenses are rising, and we have been warned of a recession.

I consider the Oregon Jobs Act a continuation of the landmark investments Oregon made just a few years ago when we passed the Oregon CHIPS Act. It was the biggest **pro-business, pro-worker, pro-Oregon** investment in recent history. We needed more good jobs then and we need more good jobs now. It was a **bipartisan** effort aimed at strengthening our economy, investing in communities around the state, and ensuring our young people have jobs to look forward to for the next 20-50 years.

This bill dovetails nicely with the work I am doing in Congress. I've put creating jobs and economic development as a top priority in my K-30 package to support young Oregonians.

And while we've laid some of the groundwork on K-30, we're still a long way away from where we need to be. In 2025, our state placed 39th in CNBC's ranking of America's Top States for Business, 46th in WalletHub's job market rankings, and 47th in business friendliness.

So today, I'm here to point out the benefits of the bipartisan Oregon JOBS Act. Businesses are ready to come and Oregonians are ready to work, but we don't have the industrial lands we need at the ready. This bill, which I see as an extension of my work in the Oregon CHIPS Act, will make one-time, small changes to the UGB for big, long-term results.

All of our investments in the Oregon CHIPS Act, and potential in emerging industries like biotech and clean energy, offer massive return on investment and we need to capitalize on it in a smart and balanced way.

This isn't just about our economy, it's about livability. It is about doing the small things – and unlocking the generational investments – that allow our kids to have good jobs when they finish school; that provide more revenue for our schools and our infrastructure; and that makes Oregon a place that everyone can afford to call home.

Now is the time for a responsible, competent and forward thinking government. Now is the time to:

1. Bank the right kind of land for the right opportunity
2. create incentives that will pay dividends well into the future
3. Initiate regulatory reform that balances all of our needs

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Janelle B. Bynum". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Congresswoman Janelle Bynum  
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