

Written Testimony  
Rob Stone  
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Oregon State University  
Neutral SB 1586  
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**Chair Broadman and Members of the Committee,**

For the record, my name is **Rob Stone**, Interim CEO of the **Frontiers of Advanced Semiconductor Technologies**, or FAST, and representing **Oregon State University**.

Oregon State University is neutral on the specific elements of this legislation SB 1586, but we want to underscore just how essential the Oregon Legislature has been—and continues to be—in strengthening Oregon's semiconductor ecosystem. Your work in 2023 on **SB 4** created the foundation for Oregon through our FAST proposal to compete for the **National Science Foundation's Regional Innovation Engine award**, a 10-year, \$160 million initiative. Right now, we are one of 15 finalists for the award, from an original pool of over 300. We would not be a finalist without the state's support.

FAST is Oregon's coordinated strategy to restore semiconductor competitiveness, accelerate innovation, and grow a world-class workforce. Today, more than **95 partners** across industry, higher education, K-12, workforce agencies, and community organizations are engaged in the FAST effort.

### **What FAST Is and Where We Are Investing**

If successful FAST will invest strategically across the entire semiconductor ecosystem to ensure Oregon's long-term success.

First, we are investing in **use-inspired research** that solves the industry's most pressing challenges everything from lowering fabrication costs, to developing new 2D materials for next-generation computing, to AI-enabled metrology and advanced power delivery and cooling. These are the technologies that will define the next frontier of advanced logic and AI-driven chips.

Second, FAST is building a **translation-to-practice pipeline** to accelerate commercialization and startup formation. This includes de-risking early technologies,

connecting entrepreneurs and investors, and attracting new semiconductor ventures to Oregon.

Third, FAST is investing deeply in **workforce development**. Oregon faces an annual workforce gap of roughly **2,500 workers**, including nearly **1,000 technicians** and hundreds of engineers and advanced-degree graduates. FAST will expand K-12 engagement, build regional pathways through community colleges and universities, and broaden access for rural and underserved communities to create a strong, AI-ready workforce.

Finally, FAST is investing in building a cohesive, impact-ready regional ecosystem across the Cascades–Willamette Innovation Corridor, ensuring Oregon remains competitive for federal CHIPS funding and future federal funding opportunities.

### **What Oregon Stands to Gain**

These investments are projected to generate more than **25,000 jobs, 4,000 graduates per year by year 10**, and more than **\$6.5 billion in GDP growth** from existing companies—plus as many as **180 new startups** across the decade.

### **Why Legislative Support Matters**

Federal agencies like NSF prioritize regions that show strong state commitment, and Oregon’s legislative action was explicitly noted during the FAST review visit in December 2025. The FAST visit was attended and supported by both Governor Kotek and Senator Bruce Starr.

Continued state support of the industry signals that Oregon is unified, resilient, and ready to deliver results at a national scale.

Sustained legislative partnership is essential—not only to scale our workforce and research capacity, but to ensure Oregon remains a global leader in the semiconductor technologies that underpin AI, national security, and advanced manufacturing.

Thank you for your leadership and for the opportunity to testify today. FAST is how Oregon reaches the next frontier of semiconductor innovation—and we look forward to continuing this work together.