

Submitter:

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On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1586

I have not read this bill in its entirety, but wanted to provide testimony as an Oregon resident who currently works in the semiconductor industry.

This industry is currently in a state of economic growth and is understandably appealing to those who think bringing more business to Oregon would be beneficial. However, I want to point out that semiconductor and semiconductor materials manufacturing has potential long-term downfalls for local communities in terms of stability, environmental risks and impact, and the potential to worsen an already bad housing shortage for Oregonians. These are my personal viewpoints, based on my experience.

In terms of stability, the technology that is supporting semiconductor research and materials production is constantly changing, often at the whims of large international companies whose only interest is to be the first to patent and develop these technologies. Many of the companies who would likely be investing in semiconductor research facilities are not Oregon or even US based, and have weak track records for providing long-term, stable employment for local workers. In my experience, research and development in this industry is focused on discovering new materials which are then handed off to larger manufacturing companies for high volume scale production - sometimes in the US but often overseas. This situation feels volatile and unstable for someone who desires and depends upon a steady job locally.

In terms of environmental risk and impact, the manufacturing of materials for the semiconductor industry is incredibly wasteful, toxic, not properly regulated, and will burden the local communities in which these businesses exist. The amount of solvent alone used in this industry presents a massive problem for waste disposal, as well as risk to those who handle them, including: carcinogenicity, neurotoxicity, and reproductive hazards. Depending on the materials being developed, the health risks of the chemicals being used increases significantly from that of solvents. I am concerned about how local communities will be able to deal with the potential waste load coming from these businesses.

Finally, as someone who has a decent job at a reputable company, my income is still too low to be able to afford to buy a house in the county or neighboring counties where I live in Oregon. This is a major concern. I have a college degree and several years of experience working in R&D and manufacturing. However, the payscale for a majority of jobs that support semiconductor research still do not provide people with an income level that can create housing stability in Oregon. I do not blame the

industry for this - I think that Oregon policy makers have failed to regulate the housing and development market in ways that could make middle-class jobs sustainable for Oregonians. Regardless, the semiconductor industry does not seem like its intent will be to create a wealth of long-term high paying jobs for locals. More likely it will draw people with higher education and industry experience from out of state, which will worsen the unaffordable housing situation in Oregon.

Thank you for considering my testimony.