

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

August 8, 2024

The Honorable Gina Raimondo  
Secretary  
Department of Commerce  
1401 Constitution Avenue NW  
Washington, D.C. 20230

The Honorable Dr. Laurie Locascio  
Director  
National Institute of Standards and Technology  
100 Bureau Drive  
Gaithersburg, Maryland 20899

Dear Secretary Raimondo and Director Locascio:

As the second anniversary of the landmark CHIPS and Science Act approaches, we write to provide an update on the remarkable mobilization taking place in Oregon. Our state is home to a thriving semiconductor industry and world-class institutions for STEAM education. We deeply appreciate, Secretary Raimondo, your visit to the “Silicon Forest” on April 5, 2023. Since passage of the CHIPS and Science Act in August of 2022, the semiconductor industry, educational institutions, and state and local governments have embodied the Oregon way in their collaboration and urgency to grow our domestic semiconductor industry and develop the workforce to drive the field. We know there is no comparison to seeing this booming industry in person, so we invite you to return to Oregon to celebrate the accomplishments we’ve made because of the CHIPS and Science Act and its historic investments in Oregon's thriving semiconductor industry.

We urge the Department to continue its consideration of Oregon’s rich resources and demonstrated commitment to the semiconductor industry as it continues to implement the various programs authorized under the CHIPS and Science Act. The Silicon Forest's innovative ecosystem enables Oregon to maximize federal CHIPS investments, compete internationally, and educate a high-tech workforce. Oregon’s semiconductor industry is deeply rooted throughout our state and the region and particularly in Washington County. Our state has attracted leading companies engaged in research and development, design, and manufacturing, as well as throughout the semiconductor supply chain. Oregon’s semiconductor industry employs roughly 33,000 people and is the state’s largest manufacturing sector. Advanced computing is our state’s highest-value export.

The investments by the Biden-Harris Administration will create thousands of high-tech, high-paying jobs—many of which are accessible to workers of all backgrounds. Importantly, the Biden-Harris Administration’s Good Jobs Principles provides a framework to create high-quality jobs that empower semiconductor workers at all levels. This guidance, published jointly by the Department of Commerce and Department of Labor, outlines principles for employers to create good jobs, including that all workers should be able to form and join unions, enjoy a safe, healthy and accessible workplace, and have job security with high pay and quality benefits. We are eager to see these jobs come to fruition in Oregon through a commitment from you, Biden-Harris Administration, and all players in the chips industry to ensure that jobs created through federal CHIPS investments are high-quality, high-paying and have strong benefits for both construction workers and the permanent workforce.

We are excited to see continued growth in domestic semiconductor manufacturing. Your work to establish preliminary memoranda of terms (PMT) with Intel and Microchip in Oregon have invigorated state efforts to invest in research and development and expanded existing pathways into the semiconductor workforce for diverse populations. As you know, Intel recently doubled down on its commitment to Oregon by expanding and modernizing its fabs at the Gordon Moore Park campus at Ronler Acres in Hillsboro with a \$36 billion investment, supported by \$8.5 billion in federal CHIPS incentives and the investment tax credit for domestic

manufacturing of semiconductors. Hillsboro, Oregon is home to Intel's largest research and development site in the world, including the only High NA EUV lithography scanner in North America. This \$350 million tool, installed at Intel's Hillsboro campus in 2023, enables development of precise and scalable beyond-leading-edge chip manufacturing not achievable at any other U.S. facility. Microchip Technologies has also agreed to a \$72 million PMT to increase its production of specialty semiconductors in Gresham, Oregon.

Oregon's businesses and research institutions have also received more than \$9.25 million in awards issued by the National Science Foundation under its Technology, Innovation, and Partnerships directive established by CHIPS and Science, including most recently a \$1 million grant to Portland State University to establish paid internships in the chips industry for underrepresented students.

Oregon's colleges and universities are taking extensive action to develop every level of the workforce that will fuel these cutting-edge facilities and the entire chips supply chain. Oregon State University, home of the 7th largest engineering college in the nation, will soon open a 150,000 square foot Collaborative Innovation Complex, featuring a state-of-the-art clean room and characterization lab to support research and training from bachelors-level research to Ph.D. programs. Alongside high-tech training opportunities, educational partnerships in Oregon are opening broadly accessible pathways into the semiconductor industry for aspiring workers. The Quick Start Semiconductor Paid Training program (developed by Portland Community College, Intel, WorkSource Oregon, and the City of Hillsboro) offers paid training opportunities where students can earn an industry-recognized certification and baseline for a career in semiconductor fabrication in just 10 days.

Additionally, the Corvallis Microfluidics "tech hub," led by Oregon State University, recently received a \$500,000 planning grant from the Economic Development Administration to facilitate partnership and collaboration between companies, schools, and workforce development organizations to advance applications of microfluidics technologies. Through this "hub," Oregon State will continue to support entrepreneurial development and provide tools and services to align with each distinct stage of scaling a product, from R&D to commercialization to high-volume manufacturing. Industry leaders will also grow their existing partnerships on outreach, training, and education.

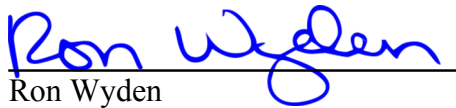
Oregon's state government is doing its part to support the semiconductor ecosystem and supplement federal and private investment by committing \$260 million to growing the state's chip industry. The funding includes \$240 million in direct grants and loans for semiconductor companies to expand their operations in Oregon, \$10 million for research at universities, and \$10 million for site development, established by the state legislature's Oregon CHIPS Act. Another state law passed in 2024 will devote \$10 million to a semiconductor workforce development fund for educational institutions. The State Legislature also passed measures to establish a \$7.5 million CHIPS Child Care Fund. This fund will build on Oregon's successful Apprenticeship-Related Child Care program by providing funding to help semiconductor industry workers access and afford child care, as well as supporting development of child care infrastructure in regions where semiconductor investments are being made. Your leadership to expand investment in child care within the semiconductor industry has been deeply influential in our state, and we are eager to demonstrate that Oregon is prepared to equitably and inclusively expand access to the chips industry for people of color, women, and other populations historically underrepresented in manufacturing, engineering and advanced computing careers.

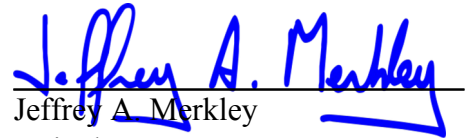
Thank you for your work implementing the CHIPS and Science Act. The programs established in this legislation and carried out by the Department of Commerce have already driven historic investments in domestic semiconductor manufacturing. As semiconductor innovation and manufacturing continue to shape the future of international economic and security competition, it is imperative that federal investment leverages all

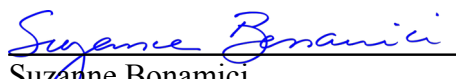
available resources and pathways for stakeholder collaboration—we are confident that under your leadership, the Commerce Department will continue to successfully implement the CHIPS and Science Act.

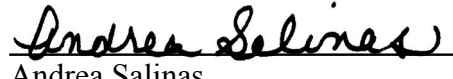
In keeping with our excitement about Oregon’s thriving semiconductor industry and its potential, we respectfully invite you to join us in Oregon on a mutually agreeable date to celebrate the second anniversary of the passage of the CHIPS and Science Act and to convene diverse, innovative, and engaged leaders from across the Silicon Forest. We stand ready to welcome you to our state, celebrate the progress made in the past two years, and share our vision for the future of Oregon’s semiconductor industry.

Sincerely,

  
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Ron Wyden  
United States Senator

  
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Jeffrey A. Merkley  
United States Senator

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Suzanne Bonamici  
Member of Congress

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Andrea Salinas  
Member of Congress

  
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Val Hoyle  
Member of Congress