



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0307



August 01, 2023

The Honorable Anthony J. Blinken
Secretary
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20520

The Honorable Julie Su
Acting Secretary
U.S. Department of Labor
200 Constitution Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20210

Dear Secretary Blinken and Acting Secretary Su,

I write regarding funding awards under the CHIP and Science Act of 2022. This historic legislation will accelerate America's semiconductor supply chain, and Arizonans are eager to support the construction of semiconductor facilities and the overarching expansion of domestic semiconductor manufacturing.

The United States' historic dependence on foreign semiconductor supply chains hurts our economy and our defense capabilities. As you know, semiconductors are used in almost every sector of electronics, from mobile phones to refrigerators. They are also critical to our national security, and it is impossible to protect our country without semiconductors. As a senior member of the House Armed Services Committee, I understand the importance of building a resilient *domestic* supply chain and manufacturing capability, particularly when countering China's investments in advanced manufacturing and military technologies. And, as the COVID-19 pandemic showed, we cannot always rely on global supply chains for semiconductors during times of crisis.

That is why Democrats in Congress and the Biden Administration came together to pass historic legislation to bring manufacturing back to the United States, such as the Chips and Science Act, the Inflation Reduction Act, and appropriated funding for the past two fiscal years. Already, the funding included under these laws are spurring investment, including tens of billions of dollars in Arizona.

However, growing domestic manufacturing is not only good for our economy and national security – manufacturing jobs support a strong middle class. Over the past four decades, United States has experienced a decline in manufacturing employment. As of 2019, there were 6,715,000 fewer manufacturing jobs than in 1979. It is not a coincidence that the off shoring of manufacturing has coincided with a fall in the purchasing power and financial well-being of

middle-class families. We must do all we can to ensure that all Americans benefit from these historic investments.

I understand that some funding recipients may be facing perceived labor shortages, particularly if their technologies and facilities require specialized training. To that end, I request that you take an active role in ensuring that these entities are, whenever available, connected with American workers who already can perform the work required under these funding awards. And, when local workers are not available, we must work with our partners to train people so that entities have access to a reliable workforce and local communities can benefit from federal investments. In Arizona for example, I am concerned by recent reports that TSMC has requested hundreds of visas for workers to do jobs that they claim cannot be filled by local union labor. For all funding awards, including TSMC, we must ensure that local jobs are filled with local workers whenever possible.

With the enormous amount of federal funding and the significance of this technology, transparency is key. Taxpayers deserve to know how this program is benefitting American citizens, especially as it pertains to American workers. Visa programs are crucial to attracting top talent from around the world, but we must protect the interests of American workers and ensure they are not displaced. Therefore, I request a briefing on the following as it relates to entities that receive CHIPS funding in Arizona:

1. How many visa applications (and what type) have employees from these entities submitted?
2. For approved visas, how long will these employees be in the U.S., can the visas be extended, and under what conditions?
3. For visas requiring specialized skills (i.e., EB2 or E-2), was there an attempt to recruit U.S. workers?
4. What commitments or investments have been made to train local workers to serve in these roles long-term?

The expansion of the semiconductor industry in the U.S. will have a significant and lasting impact on our economy and national security. We must execute this with precision, ensuring taxpayer dollars are spent wisely, and substantial investment in the American workforce to ensure an advanced, reliant, and sustainable U.S. semiconductor industry.

Sincerely,



Ruben Gallego
MEMBER OF CONGRESS