

As Trump calls for axing CHIPS Act, Husted said bipartisan support remains for subsidy

By Max Filby
Columbus Dispatch

Ohio leaders remain focused on [bringing Intel's semiconductor factories to fruition](#) despite President Donald Trump's call Tuesday to end federal support for it and other microchip plants in the United States.

During his joint address to Congress on Tuesday, [Trump called the federal CHIPS and Science Act "a horrible, horrible thing."](#) It's unclear whether Congress will follow suit on Trump's call to end funding through the CHIPS Act, which was signed into law by former President Joe Biden in 2022.

"We give hundreds of billions of dollars and it doesn't mean a thing ... You should get rid of the CHIP Act and whatever's left over, Mr. Speaker, you should use it to reduce debt," Trump said Tuesday night.

When asked to respond to the president's criticism of the CHIPS Act, Sen. Jon Husted, R-Ohio, expressed support for the legislation. The CHIPS Act was "one of the only major bipartisan pieces of legislation to pass in the last Congress," and would likely be preserved, Husted said in a prepared statement.

Husted, as lieutenant governor, played a pivotal role in helping attract Intel to the state. However, Husted has [long been critical of how much time it took the Biden administration to begin awarding Intel its money.](#)

Although the CHIPS Act became law in 2020, Intel didn't begin receiving CHIPS funding until December. Husted said at the time he hoped it would help the chipmaker pick up the pace of its Ohio project.

"I am confident bipartisan support remains," Husted said Wednesday. "For the economic and national security of America, we need to make

chips in the USA — I believe this is part of an America First agenda. Making chips in places like Ohio will make sure that China doesn't win."

The Dispatch has also reached out to the office of Sen. Bernie Moreno, Ohio's other Republican senator, for comment.

Dan Tierney, spokesman for Gov. Mike DeWine, said the state will keep a close eye on any moves federal legislators make with regard to the CHIPS Act. But Tierney said Intel remains committed to its \$28-billion Ohio One plants that are estimated to hire 3,000 workers once they're up and running.

"Intel was committed to the fab plants in New Albany, regardless of whether the CHIPS Act was in effect or not," Tierney told The Dispatch. "We'll wait and see what happens. Right now, the CHIPS Act is the law of the land."

Intel has received \$2.2 billion of its \$7.865 billion in funding as part of the federal CHIPS Incentives Program. At least \$1.5 billion of that funding was set to go toward the New Albany project, according to the U.S. Department of Commerce.

Trump's call for an end to the CHIPS Act comes as Intel has suffered a series of financial troubles, which have in part led the company to delay the expected completion of its first Ohio plant to 2030, with an opening set for 2030 or 2031. Intel's second Ohio factory will be finished in 2031 and will open in 2032, according to the company.

Intel originally planned to open its first Ohio factory in 2025, before first delaying it to 2027 and then last week to 2030 or 2031.

Year over year, Intel's annual revenue was down 2% at the end of 2024, compared to the end of 2023, according to the company's financial reports. In August, Intel cut 15,000 jobs — or about 15% of its workforce — as part of a \$10-billion global restructuring designed to boost profit and improve efficiency.

Intel's stumbles caused its stock to plummet 57% in 2024, despite vast growth in the semiconductor industry, according to the financial service Nasdaq. Intel's stock plunged from \$50.25 a share near the end of 2023 to a low of \$18.89 in September, before rebounding

somewhat this month to \$27.39 following [comments from Vice President JD Vance about U.S. chip manufacturing](#).

Although Intel's financial struggles have hindered the company's plans, it's unclear how much a repeal of CHIPS Act funding would hurt its Ohio project. An Intel spokesperson declined to comment directly on Trump's comments, but the company has said it remains committed to its Ohio project and construction continues at the New Albany site.

"We know that onshoring chip production to the Ohio One site is critical to American economic and national security," said Matt Englehart, spokesman for JobsOhio, the state's private, nonprofit development corporation. "Intel committed to building the first two fabs before CHIPS Act funding, and construction is moving forward."

Katie Seewer, spokesperson for the Ohio Democratic Party, called out the Trump administration directly for the president's comments.

Seewer said its members will stand up to billionaires like Trump and Elon Musk "who would sacrifice Ohio's economy for their personal gain."

"Last night, Donald Trump called legislation that creates thousands of jobs and invested billions in our state a "horrible, horrible thing," Seewer said in a press release. "While Donald Trump threatens our jobs, Elon Musk and fellow billionaires are only getting richer and our senators are too weak to really stand up for us. "

Dispatch reporter Jordan Laird contributed to this story.