



To: Joint Committee on Semiconductors

From: Julia DeGraw, Oregon Conservation Network, and Oregon League of Conservation Voters

Date: 2/22/2023

**RE: SB 4, For Semiconductor Development in Oregon**

Dear Co-Chairs Sollman and Bynum, and members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to offer input on SB 4 on behalf of Oregon Conservation Network (OCN) and the Oregon League of Conservation Voters (OLCV) and our thousands of members and supporters throughout the state.

The OCN is coordinated through the Oregon League of Conservation Voters. OCN is a coalition of 42 not-for-profit organizations throughout the state, united to advocate for pro-conservation legislation and to fight policies that threaten our state's natural legacy. OCN is powered by tens of thousands of Oregonians who belong to their membership organizations. We work to promote policies that will ensure a better Oregon for our children – and to fight policies that do not.

We are reaching out to you today because the health of our economy depends on the health of our land, air, and water. The choices we make for how we steward our growth have immediate and generational consequences for people, wildlife, natural areas, and businesses.

The Oregon Conservation Network supports building upon the strong environmental and land use protections that ensure we have clean water, clean air, buildable lands inside our urban growth boundaries and natural and working lands outside of them. These protections provide the certainty that companies need so that they call Oregon "home." They offer a high quality of life for our communities, enabling businesses to attract and retain a talented and loyal workforce. Oregonians agree; the majority of residents in rural and urban areas believe that protecting the environment should be prioritized<sup>1</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup>*Oregon Values and Beliefs Center Survey*, August 31, 2021. <https://oregonvbc.org/climate-change/>

Oregon has proven that we need not pit jobs against the environment. After all, the State Legislature doesn't need to fix what is not broken. We are home to 15% of the national workforce in the semiconductor industry, with the highest concentration of the industry's skilled workers than any other state, while Oregon accounts for only 1.3% of the national workforce (approx. 2.2 million are eligible for Oregon's workforce<sup>2</sup>). We have strengths that we should be nurturing for long-term, sustainable, and inclusive economic growth<sup>3</sup>.

The OCN supports economic development strategies that protect our water, air, and land. Therefore, we **oppose** approaches that:

- Supersite land for industrial, residential, and/or commercial uses outside existing urban growth boundaries. Urban growth boundaries help communities manage growth and public investments equitably, set communities up for long-term success, and protect our working lands and natural areas. Urban growth boundaries can also be expanded upon a credible and defensible showing of need through existing statute. Thanks to the work of the Joint Semiconductor Committee, new information from their most recent hearings have shown there are ample opportunities for semiconductor development within existing urban growth boundaries.
- Bypass or weaken environmental protections that help businesses, government agencies, and communities identify and prevent potential hazards to human health and the environment.

We also offer viable strategies that build upon Oregon's strengths:

- Direct resources to the creation and ongoing maintenance of a statewide inventory of industrial lands.
- Direct initial public funding for industrial site readiness on land inside existing urban growth boundaries with the outcome to support the expansion of the state's semiconductor industry workforce. Sites inside existing urban growth boundaries and zoned for potential semiconductor workforce expansion should be receiving assistance from the State now.
- Direct funding to DEQ and any other relevant state agencies to help expedite permitting timelines for proposed semiconductor workforce expansion so that state agencies

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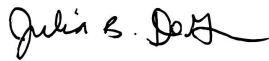
<sup>2</sup> *Seizing Opportunity: Initial Report and Subcommittee Findings*, August 2022. Oregon Semiconductor Competitiveness Taskforce.  
<http://oregonbusinessplan.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/Semiconductor-Task-Force-Report-for-Release.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> Oregon's land use planning program requires cities to plan and protect land for industrial uses. The State should focus on where cities have done just that, and have brought forward those several hundred acre sites, inside UGBs, that are suitable for high tech development.

charged with environmental, agricultural, and public health protections can be responsive to semiconductor expansion applications.

Moving forward we will work with our partners to improve the legislation to help expand semiconductor development in Oregon in alignment with Oregon's values of clean air, clean water, healthy lands, and high quality jobs that make Oregon such a special and beloved place to live.

Thank you for your consideration,



Julia B. DeGraw

Coalition Director

Oregon Conservation Network, and Oregon League of Conservation Voters

### **Submitted On Behalf of Oregon Conservation Network 42 Member Organizations**

1000 Friends of Oregon, Association of Oregon Recyclers, Audubon Society of Portland, Beyond Toxics, Cascadia Wildlands, Center for Biological Diversity, Center for Food Safety, Central Oregon LandWatch, Climate Solutions, Defenders of Wildlife, Deschutes River Alliance, Engineers for a Sustainable Future, The Environmental Center, Environment Oregon, Food & Water Watch, Friends of Mount Hood, Friends of the Columbia Gorge, Friends of Family Farmers, Greater Hells Canyon Council, League of Women Voters of Oregon, Native Fish Society, Neighbors for Clean Air, Oceana, Oregon Coast Alliance, Oregon Environmental Council, Oregon Land and Water Alliance, Oregon League of Conservation Voters, Oregon Natural Desert Association, Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility, Oregon Shores Conservation Coalition, Oregon Wild, Pew Charitable Trusts, Renewable Northwest, Rogue Riverkeeper, Sierra Club Oregon Chapter, The Street Trust, Surfrider Foundation, Trout Unlimited, Tualatin Riverkeepers, WaterWatch of Oregon, The Wetlands Conservancy, Wild Salmon Center, Zero Coalition