

To: Oregon Business Development Department,
Joint Committee on Semiconductors: SB 4

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From: Daniel A. Ball, Ph.D. Professor Emeritus
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I urge you to oppose Senate Bill 4, especially because it allows siting of semiconductor manufacturing on EFU farmlands, and circumvents Oregon's well-established LCDC and the land protections of farmlands. It allows the Governor to designate certain lands to be brought within urban growth boundaries for specified industrial uses. It allows local governments to rezone lands for such uses by ordinance. These give too much authority to a very few individuals.

Farmlands in Oregon (and world-wide) are an endangered, non-renewable resource, are vital for food production, and are a sustainable, established, economically important industry for our state. Semiconductor manufacturing, on the other hand, consumes huge amounts of water, requires large amounts of GHG emitting energy, and produces considerable amounts of hazardous waste. It should be pointed out that potentially siting these facilities on farmlands has the propensity to inflate land prices thereby making farming a less attractive enterprise. To add to my opposition to SB 4, creating a completely new industry in the state will most likely exacerbate our affordable housing shortage, as most of the trained workers needed will be from out of the area.

Therefore, to potentially trade an established, vital resource such as EFU lands will decrease the sustainability of farming, in exchange for a money-making opportunity to benefit a few, large corporate interests. This is a narrow-minded, environmentally damaging concept for Oregon's farming industry, and its citizens.

I have always been proud that Oregon is a conservation-oriented state, that values and protects our vital farmland, forests, and controls urban sprawl. I have worked with the Oregon agricultural industry for well over 30 years, and understand the pressures to maintain economically stable farming enterprises. Farmland loss is a serious issue. We will need 60% more food by 2050, globally.

I have also witnessed the many attempts to weaken the Oregon Land Use System and weaken farm land protections. This current attempt (SB 4) is one of the worst. It is especially troubling to consider giving our governor the executive power to circumvent our land-use laws under the bogus declaration of an "emergency". We now have more than 60 uses in the Exclusive Farm Use Zone, most of the non-farm uses. It is time to stop the destruction of our farm zone.

To reiterate my points of opposition:

- It bypasses the well thought out Oregon's land use process already in place.
- It gives too much power to one person.
- It would likely exacerbate Oregon's housing crisis.
- The carbon footprint of these facilities will easily negate our efforts in all of Oregon to store carbon.

Respectfully,



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