

Submitter: Joy Jaquillard
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Committee On Semiconductors
Measure: SB4

Dear legislator,

The UN has said that small farms, close to markets, are essential to meeting the needs of a growing population.

As your Oregon constituent, I am writing to express my strong concern for Senate Bill 4's approach to land use (Sections 10 and 11).

Sections 10 and 11 unnecessarily place a target on our farms, forests, and watersheds for any type of development.

We need those lands for agriculture and to protect the quality of our air and water. They are essential to maintain healthy communities and should not be available to for use as a profit generator. Without access to food, clean air and water, communities and economies cannot survive. Farms, forests, and watersheds are too precious and in too short a supply to squander them for short term profit. We need to take the long view and continue to protect assets that are irretrievable once they are misused.

The proposed legislation also overlooks the fact that the urban growth boundary process is flexible and responsive to unanticipated growth. We do not need the state to make changes or create a new process if, in the future, acreage is the make-or-break factor for guaranteed expansion of high-quality job opportunities. Between 2016 and 2021, 95 percent of the 37 applications to bring land into a UGB were approved – 83 percent without appeal and 80 percent within one year (that included nine industrial lots). We lack industrial land because we have not invested in and locked in the zoning for the industrial land we already have.

We can have a win-win-win approach:

1. Support cities and towns' economic development plans that are already adopted through comprehensive planning.
2. Maintain our competitive advantage in semiconductor job expansions.
3. Protect our farms, forests, range-lands, and watersheds.

Remove Sections 10 and 11. Propose a Senate Bill 4 that sets the state up for success.

Thank you,

Joy Jaquillard