



*Protecting Our Natural Heritage
From the Coast to the Cascades*

P.O. Box 5347 • Eugene, OR 97405 • (541) 741-3625 • www.landwatch.net

March 3, 2023

TO: Joint Committee on Semiconductors
FROM: LandWatch Lane County
SUBJECT: SB 4

Co-Chairs Sollman and Bynum, and Members of the Committee-
LandWatch Lane County is opposed to SB 4.

Industry wants our water, a precious resource used and abused by industry since the industrial revolution. Once it gets access to our water, it will expect a reduced rate for that access due to the amount of water that will be consumed and wasted. When the resource and incentives dry up, the industry will move on to the next open door, the next free market. It is always the same story and everyone of you should know that.

Why should Oregon encourage and incentivize the exploitation of our own resources for any reason, much less for multinational corporations. This bill doesn't even require a specific number of jobs to be created. Even if it did, it wouldn't matter if those jobs didn't materialize later, there's always a good

enough excuse –market conditions, upgrade costs, cost of labor and materials, etc.; just look at the history of Hyundai/Hynix semi-conductor chip manufacturing plant built in Eugene’s west Eugene wetlands. The promised jobs never materialized, the corporation didn’t pay it’s fair share for the massive amounts of water it used, which had a negative impact on the rest of the ratepayers, and when their industry ‘changed’ they moved on, leaving a giant factory sitting empty for decades.

The City of Hillsboro has already permitted several hundred acres of an original 1000-acre industrial site, most likely established with assistance from the states Industrial Lands bill several years back, including Top Golf, a go kart track, data centers, and warehouses - uses inconsistent with the long-term goal of industrial development.

Nor should any governor ever be given the kind of omnipotent authority this bill proposes, not even temporarily. Not only is it a dangerous precedent, it is a blow to the process Oregonians expect – citizen participation.

Urban growth boundaries are not a political tool to be used and abused at will by the legislative body, or any other body. UGB’s provide a function enabled by state law that helps protect communities from the negative effects of unplanned for growth and development. Corporations desire for access to a community’s resources should be viewed for what it is – exploitation. Corporations never pay their fair share and never stay around to pick up the pieces of what they have destroyed. And, once undeveloped farmland has been brought into the UGB, everyone knows it will never be used as farmland again.

Respectfully submitted,

Lauri Segel