

Statement of the Oregon Land And Water Alliance (OLAWA) in opposition to Senate Bill 4, sections 10 and 11.

My name is Paul Lipscomb, and I live in the Cloverdale area outside of Sisters, OR. I am the Vice President of OLAWA, the Oregon Land And Water Alliance. The Oregon Land And Water Alliance is a 501c3 organization, and its purpose is to educate the public to promote and protect the Rule of Law on all local issues relating to land and water use as well as fish and wildlife. I have been authorized to present this testimony in opposition to this bill on behalf of OLAWA.

Sections 10 and 11 of Senate Bill 4 propose poor public policy in two different ways.

First, cities and counties that have failed to prepare for their future needs for clean industrial employment opportunities within their existing urban growth boundaries would be rewarded with new industrial mapping flexibility. And cities and counties which did prepare would be at a competitive financial disadvantage, because that “shovel ready” land would be more expensive.

Second, it would serve as a blanket approval for the retirement of farmlands and forests outside of any urban growth boundary. Once gone under the bulldozer of “progress” those farm and forest lands will never return to their productive past uses.

We need to continue to protect and preserve our valuable forest and agricultural lands in Oregon through our statewide goals and guidelines. We do not need to make special exceptions for the “flavor of the day” economic development proposals.

Please vote to delete Sections 10 and 11 from SB 4. And thank you for your consideration of our concerns.

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