

Submitter: Jim Gilbert
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Committee On Semiconductors
Measure: SB4

Dear Committee members, I have read about SB4 with great apprehension. I understand the importance of strengthening Oregon's economy and certainly, providing incentives to the manufacturers of computer chips will do so. We also believe it is unnecessary and unwise to give the Governor unilateral power to expand Urban Growth Boundaries. It sets a bad precedent that could be used to further erode our land use planning program in the future.

This year marks the 50th Anniversary of Senate Bill 100, which created our groundbreaking, unique in the nation, land use planning program, including the Urban Growth Boundaries that saved Oregon's agricultural industry, the second largest economic sector in our state. These UGB's have done a remarkable job of permitting development in an organized way that has protected thousands of acres of farmland. They are not firm boundaries, but to expand them requires a methodical and thoughtful approach, with public hearings and input. Discarding that approach is contrary to the history of our land use program and the dedication of Oregon's leaders and citizens, who established the Goals of Senate Bill 100 and who have defended them for all these years.

As I like to say, you cannot digitize food. While chip manufacturing is currently a strong industry, farming in Oregon has been an essential part of our economy for over 150 years and will continue to be so far into the future. Agriculture is essential to human survival and well-being. As was noted in Jim Johnson's presentation, Oregon agriculture provides many thousands of jobs, not only on farms and ranches, but also in the numerous supporting businesses around the state. While the semiconductor industry is an equally desirable industry for our state, providing incentives for it does not require the violation of our well-proven program of land use planning.

Please amend Senate Bill 4 to continue the time tested program we all value and respect to protect our valuable agricultural lands.

Thank you, Jim Gilbert - Northwoods Nursery, Molalla