

Submitter: Robert Emmons
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Committee On Semiconductors
Measure: SB4

Joint Committee on Semiconductors
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court Street NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

Re: Testimony in opposition to SB 4

Members of the committee,

To facilitate the notoriously fragile, variable and fickle computer chip industry (See Hynix Eugene), SB 4 would give the Governor unilateral authority to expand UGBs. This is a bad precedent and ironic to boot, considering that this year Oregon gratefully celebrates the 50th anniversary of SB 100.

SB 100 established a program of land use goals governed by comprehensive plans, statutes, rules, codes and enforcement. Essential in all phases of the program, and the reason it is our first goal, is citizen involvement. But public participation through hearings and other input would be co-opted by allowing one person alone, in this case the Governor, to make a decision that could—and would—put the protection of our farm and forest lands, natural areas and open space in jeopardy.

There has been a pitch to locate semi-conductor super-sites on land outside UGBs and have it “shovel ready” before any commitment from a semi-conductor company. Among other deleterious consequences this could allow an uninterested semi-conductor company to walk away and some ubiquitous shopping or business mall or another to take its place. Yet all of that is unnecessary, because there are acreages within the UGBs of a number of municipalities on both side of the cascades large enough to accommodate any semi-conductor industry without destroying invaluable farmland outside of UGBs. Instead of throwing herself like “a shameless hussy after the latest smokestack”, Oregon should act with the measure of salutary self restraint and self respect expected of a state that has served as a model for land use protection.

Development interests have been chipping away at land use protections since the inception of SB 100. Please honor the progenitors of this precedent-setting bill and the job our land use program has done to keep Oregon a relatively healthy state by urging your colleagues to remove language from SB 4 giving the Governor unprecedented authority to expand UGBs and by focusing on the available land

within them.

Thank you.

Robert Emmons, President
LandWatch Lane County