

Submitter: Jim Emerson

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Semiconductors

Measure: SB4

SB 4 proposes to invalidate 15 recent years of Oregon's Land Use Reserves process, including the lawsuits which ensued, by giving one person the authority to re-designate land at will, for a specific purpose. We have a capable new governor, and she has advisors, but the affront to public involvement - even legislative involvement - is profound and will only deepen distrust of state government. Don't set this precedent ! If that is not reason enough to oppose SB 4, consider the budget: many millions of dollars proposed as a lure for companies which for myriad reasons are more likely to locate elsewhere. Can we not imagine more effective uses for this money?

And if more reasons are needed, please read at least the summary of the World Economic Forum's "Global Risks Report 2023," published in January 2023. (weforum.org) More than 1200 experts in diverse fields predict "self-perpetuating and compounding polycrises" - by 2030 ! That's seven years from now ! Among these are crises of Food, Water, and Supply Chains, leading to conflicts, migrations, regional famines, and complex disruptions. This is from an organization which has usually touted business-as-usual and optimism about "growth." Oregon should not destroy any more of our agricultural land, especially prime land. Nor should our declining water resources be further depleted by a water-intensive industry such as chip-manufacturing. The lure of money is strong, as lotteries demonstrate, but Oregon needs to look towards the future, and fundamental human needs.