



Oppose the Conversion of Agricultural Lands in SB 4

Co-Chairs Bynum and Sollman, Vice Chairs Knopp and Wallan, and Members of the Joint Committee on Semiconductors we urge your opposition to the permanent conversion of our agricultural lands under Sections 10 and 11 of SB 4 both as drafted and in the many amendments posted in the Oregon Legislative Information System as of the drafting of this testimony. The Oregon Farm Bureau (OFB) is the state's largest agricultural trade association and represents over 6,600 farm and ranch families and the Oregon Association of Nurseries (OAN) represents wholesale plant growers, Christmas tree growers, retailers, and greenhouse operators, whose members are located throughout the state, with the largest nursery growing operations found in Clackamas, Marion, Washington, Yamhill, and Multnomah Counties.

Oregon is home to one of the most diverse agricultural industries in the nation, courtesy of the incredible land and soils that would be destroyed by industrial development proposed in this legislation. Today, Oregon agriculture has a \$33.3 billion economic footprint with \$31.1 billion in sales of goods and services, representing 15.4% of Oregon's economy which is 20.3% of jobs, or 1 in every 5 jobs. The nursery and greenhouse industry is the state's largest agricultural sector, and Oregon ranks third in the nation in nursery production, with over \$1.2 billion in sales across the nation and the globe. In fact, nearly 80% of the nursery stock grown in our state leaves our borders – with over 50% reaching markets east of the Mississippi River. The nursery industry employs more than 22,000 full-time workers with an annual payroll of over \$327 million. Nurseries send ecologically friendly, carbon sequestering, green products out of the state, and bring traded sector dollars back to Oregon.

OFB and OAN are opposed to the land use sections of SB 4 as currently drafted and do not support the executive branch having unchecked authority to potentially authorize taking agricultural lands permanently out of production through an expedited process. Additionally, OFB and OAN do not support the redefining of agricultural land on factors other than the statewide criteria identified in Goal 3. While different regions of the state may have varying levels of non-farm development pressure, like semiconductors and industrial development, a standard definition of agricultural land under Goal 3 is key to maintaining the agricultural land base.

Oregon is home to one of the most diverse agricultural industries in the nation, with more than 220 high-quality agricultural products grown throughout the state, courtesy of the incredible land and soils that would be destroyed by industrial development proposed in this legislation. The conversion of agricultural lands into paved industrial sites is the permanent destruction of our natural and working lands, once it's paved, the soil and its ability to sequester carbon, support our food system, and generate income for Oregonians is gone forever. Crop rotation, commodity markets and how our land managers make their businesses pencil has no bearing on the loss to the state if these lands are taken out of production. OFB and OAN feel strongly that the semiconductors committee and the Governor should focus on the rezoning or rehabilitation of lands within the urban growth boundary. Please oppose Sections 10 and 11 of SB 4. Thank you.