

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

The Semi-conductor sector is often described as "clean", without pollution. Not so. I have been a community member of the Air Quality Advisory Committee with Intel over the past 6 years. The AQAC came about from a settlement between Intel and Neighbors for Clean Air and the The NW Environmental Center. Save Helvetia was a community party to the matter. That settlement followed Intel's admission of 30 years of un-reported fluoride emissions in Washington County. The AQAC learned that there had never been any "health risk assessment" undertaken of Intel's inventory of over 200 toxic substances. We negotiated the undertaking of the So. California Health Risk Assessment model. The state, county, and city had/have no mandates for any health assessments. We undertook the assessment and followed with a period of ambient air quality monitoring to test those results. The testing validated the health risk assessment. This past summer, Intel suffered some 60 days of toxic emissions when a human error left a switch on a "scrubber" in the off position. This can become risky for neighbors depending on which way the winds are blowing: a prevailing winds rosette as measured from the Hillsboro Airport. Winds tend to blow south to north in the rainy months and northeast to southwest in the hotter months. This means all surrounding communities can be impacted, depending on time of year, height of emissions "plume" and toxins involved. Intel has been working on making its scrubbers in their emission stacks more efficient through time. Any siting without assessment and monitoring is ill conceived. The Intel Aloha facility is a federally monitored hazardous waste site due to a leaked underground tank. It is the "chernoble" of Washington County. Siting authorities, including legislators should feel the burden for understanding the impacts of the facilities they help site. It is not just tax base and jobs, it is very much the health and safety of the broader communities. Will there be health risk assessments of the semi-conductor manufacturers you help site? ORAQAC.com