

Submitter: Tom Bowerman

On Behalf Of: Bowerman Family

Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water

Measure: HB2659

Senate Bill 4 has several egregious flaws and should not be passed.

My most fundamental objection to this bill is Section 10, dealing with jiggering the Oregon's established land use planning standards. My points in brief are:

1. Oregon's land use system should be a durable and steady policy. Chipping away the edges of the program would set a terrible precedent. Oregon's land use program objectives have been consistently supported by the majority of Oregon citizens. Repeated representative sample surveys exhibit strong plurality support for management of urban growth through the existing programs initiated in Oregon SB 100 in the 1970's.
2. The semiconductor and computer technology is fickle and changes very rapidly. For example, twenty years ago Eugene and state officials fell all over themselves to entice Hynix Semiconductor to the urban fringe. After using up the generous public subsidies, the plant on 200 acres on the edge of the urban growth boundary shut down on short notice with huge layoffs. Local press described the closing as the worst economic impact in history. After exhausting the State and local government incentives the plant sat idle for years and subsequently was sold three times at ever diminishing amounts, fractional of original value.
3. Since the passage of Oregon's land use protection bill in 1973 under SB100 bipartisan support, much more has already been taken away from its protections than have been added. The periodic chipping away at SB100's original goals, the rationale is regularly poised as a economic growth or property rights, but the evidence of the outcomes do not live up to these claims. A gubernatorial waiver of land use policies - vetted through rigorous public participation under administrative rules - would be a very bad precedent.
4. Oregonian's strongly favor Oregon's land use planning program. HB2659 is an explicit deviation from the intent and practical application of LCDC's policies and practice.

As past Governor Tom McCall would say, don't sully Oregon's qualities by pandering to the folks who can't live up to Oregon's stated goals and standards..

Sincerely,

Tom Bowerman