



February 27, 2023

Re: SB 4

Dear Co-Chairs Sollman and Bynum & Members of the Committee:

My name is Amy Wong and I am the Board Chair of the Oregon Organic Coalition (OOC), based in Lyons, Oregon. The OOC was founded by organic leaders over 15 ago to build unified support for organic advocacy. The OOC has brought together businesses, farmers, organizations, and other stakeholders, to provide direction, advocacy, and support for activities that promote and grow organic practices and the trade in Oregon and beyond.

Broadly, the OOC also contributes to regional advocacy efforts and sees the Pacific Northwest as having great potential for being a world leader in organic and regenerative agriculture, with diverse crop offerings. And when rooted in organic's core principles of health, ecology, fairness, and care, the OOC believes organic production can create more equitable and resilient regional food systems.

Access to land is an issue for all of Oregon's agricultural industry, including the organic sector. Preserving farmland is a one piece of the land access puzzle and doing so is a goal of not only the OOC, but many of our coalition members.

The OOC respectfully requests that you protect farmland when deliberating the merits of SB 4:

- Oregon does not need the Governor, the legislature, or any other entity to be granted supersiting authority. Oregon's land use planning program requires cities to plan and protect employment land, including for industrial uses. Many cities have proposed sites ranging from 100 to 1000 acres, inside their UGBs, and well-located to meet the transportation and other needs of semiconductor manufacturing. These communities need the state investment in land readiness that SB 4 brings. And indeed, Oregon should step up and contribute to industrial land readiness, inside UGBs.
- The provision granting the Governor this authority currently has a concerning loophole. The legislation says that if the land brought into a UGB under SB 4 has not been "substantially developed" by June 30, 2027, it will be taken out of the UGB, *unless* the land has by that time been added to the UGB through the usual UGB amendment process. Land use advocates expect that Hillsboro—the city closest to the farmland begin targeted for this semiconductor purpose—will act quickly to formalize the land inside the UGB. And, after, if no semiconductor plant materializes, the land could be used for *anything*.
- SB 4, and much of the "site inventory" process, has been nontransparent and seemingly preferential to one site—500 or more acres of prime farmland in Washington County, north of

Hillsboro. This means skipping over even 500 acres zoned for industrial use that is already inside the Hillsboro portion of the UGB.

- Cities that have stepped up include Wilsonville, Redmond, Albany, Corvallis, Medford/Phoenix, and more.
- While SB 4 states these and other cities will be "given consideration," that is in the section for supersiting *outside* of UGBs. There is nothing in this bill that requires the Governor to first consider land *inside* of UGBs.
- SB 4 should be amended to require the Governor to select a site(s) inside UGBs.
- Oregon does not need to, and should not, pave over farmland—which is a critical resource for the number two industry in the state, agriculture, in order to site a chip factory.
- The land being targeted for supersiting is among the best farmland in the world. It can grow anything. Semiconductor factories, in contrast, do not need great soil; just concrete.

The OOC has testified before the legislature many times about the potential for organic agriculture to bridge the rural/urban divide and build economic development. However, in order realize this potential, farmland must be preserved.

Thank you for your consideration,



Amy Wong - Oregon Organic Coalition