

Submitter: Sarah Deumling
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Committee On Semiconductors
Measure: SB4
RE: SB 4

Parts of this bill seems to be set up for end runs around our already existing land use laws which many of us believe have helped enormously to keep Oregon the wonderful place it has always been. Cities have UGBs set up to provide supplies of industrial land. These boundaries have been expanded many times over the years to add more land, all under our current laws. There is no reason at all why either the governor or the legislature need additional super siting power for industrial use. The existing sites that are ready to use today within UGBs should be used before we even think about paving over more farmland. And, if the state is interested in offering financial incentives, it would seem fair to give preference to those rural areas of the state that need the jobs the most.

Agriculture is our #2 industry. It, along with forestry and fishing, are the industries which are our bedrock, our ace-in-the-hole, etc. They cannot leave the state and are often carried out by long-time Oregonians who have a connection to and a love of the land and the communities of which they are a part. One cannot say this for industries from afar which are lured here by financial advantages with no guarantee of how long they will stay and if their promises of jobs and wages will be fulfilled. We, and the world, will always need food and fiber, especially from such fine agricultural and forest land as we have in Oregon, especially Washington Co.

Please rethink your assumptions folks. The enormous amounts of money proposed to lure the chip industry (or other large industry) could be used to support longtime, legitimate, often family owned businesses in Oregon which often struggle to compete in this world of large corporations - or for any of many other uses that would more directly benefit all of us regular folks.

As someone who grew up on a family farm in the Willamette Valley (when 1.5 million people lived in Oregon) and who now owns and manages a working family forest here, I urge you, I beg you, in the name of future generations, NOT to pave over any more farm or forest land and to shift your vision to the long term livability of Oregon in this rapidly changing world.

Thank you for your work and for the opportunity to testify.
Sarah Deumling