

Submitter: Richard van Pelt
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Committee On Semiconductors
Measure: SB4

I oppose Senate Bill 4.

Senate Bill 4 is one of those grand measures that seems to address one problem in order to trump agreements made with and by Oregonians in the past. The super-sighting provisions of the bill stand out as just such an example and should be removed from the measure.

I am one of those naive people who think living up to your word is important. Unfortunately, legislators are not very good at this, replicating what one set of my pioneer ancestors did to another set of my, merely, Indigenous ancestors.

Nearly fifty years ago we saw a problem with land use and we enacted SB 100. I'm in my ninth decade and I supported that vision; sadly, most of those who supported it with me are no longer here to write in opposition to this measure. Over the nearly past half century many of you have sought to evade the vision Oregonians had then for what Oregon ought to be.

Some in Oregon and nationally made bad decisions. We let the bottom line to our vision be driven by the bottom line to the annual report and we let China manufacture our semi-conductors. Now we want to claw back what we let the corporate bottom line outsource.

SB 4 is a carpetbagger's dream. If passed, agreements we made with each other, in the name of those living and those who would come hereafter, will be used to make more money for some by turning farmland into industry - ignoring that we set aside land for that purpose.

"It's merely used to grow grass seed" is a feeble argument. Farmland is diverse land that can be used for one purpose today and another purpose tomorrow. Turn it into a polluting, water, and energy consuming land paved over by concrete and buildings that have no intrinsic use once the temporary need for semi-conductors has passed breaks the bargain we reached in the past.

If you favor breaking agreements, this is your bill. It is not mine.