

Submitter: Craig Markham
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Committee On Semiconductors
Measure: SB4

Dear members of the Joint Committee on Semiconductors,

As your Oregon constituent, I am writing to express my strong concern for Senate Bill 4's approach to land use – in particular, Sections 10 and 11.

Sections 10 and 11 recklessly target our farms, forests, and watersheds not only for high-tech developments but for any type of development.

The proposed legislation ignores our cities and towns that have worked hard to do the right thing to responsibly lay the groundwork within their urban growth boundaries: they've zoned industrial lands for that purpose, held onto these lands for industrial uses, and invested in their people and places as part of a bigger vision of healthy communities, productive economies, and clean air and water. We need the state to support this vision by investing in these lands as viable sites for semiconductor expansions.

The proposed legislation also overlooks the fact that the urban growth boundary process is flexible and responsive to unanticipated growth. We do not need the state to make changes or create a new process if, in the future, acreage is the make-or-break factor for guaranteed expansion of high-quality job opportunities. Between 2016 and 2021, 95 percent of the 37 applications to bring land into a UGB were approved – 83 percent without appeal and 80 percent within one year. That included nine industrial lots. We lack industrial land only because we have not invested in and locked in the zoning for the industrial land we already have.

We can make this work by:

1. Supporting economic development plans that cities and towns' have already adopted through their comprehensive planning.
2. Maintaining our competitive advantage in semiconductor job expansions.
3. Protecting our farms, forests, rangelands, and watersheds that form our historic economic base.

I urge you to remove Sections 10 and 11 from SB 4 to help set a responsible course to success.

Respectfully,
Craig Markham