



February 28, 2023

## RE: Senate Bill 4

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

Organically Grown Company, known as OGC, began 45 years ago as a non-profit grower's cooperative, selling fresh, organic produce and specialty crops to help small to mid-size farms expand their market access and to get healthy food to the people.

By 1980 OGC had created an agricultural marketing cooperative, purchased a cooler, and built its first loading dock in Eugene, Oregon. Along the way, OGC became an S-class corporation in 1999, and in 2008 an employee stock ownership program (ESOP) took effect. Then in 2018, OGC became proudly owned by the first-of-its-kind Sustainable Food and Agriculture Perpetual Purpose Trust. This Trust ownership model allows the company to remain independent and true to its mission to promote and inspire the growth of the organic agriculture movement.

Today, as a Trust-owned organization, OGC operates out of seven facilities in the Pacific Northwest, employs over 250 produce professionals, sources from over 350 farms and in 2022 distributed over 125 million pounds of fresh organic produce to eaters.

Throughout our journey we have remained dedicated to not only helping organic farmers get their products to consumers, but also in leading policy/advocacy action on behalf of stakeholders, including our farmers who are too busy on their farms to meet with legislators. In our 2021 stakeholder survey, farmland preservation and access to land ranked as the second highest policy priority, falling only behind the top-ranked priority of farmworker health & wellness.

In support of our stakeholders and to keep Oregon's agricultural sector strong into the future, we, as a marketer and distributor of specialty crops produced by local farmers and as members of the Oregon Organic Coalition, 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

### PRESERVE FARMLAND

\*We're losing farmland to fragmentation, development, and increasing land prices.

\*Look to repurposing vacant buildings before paving over farmland.

\*The land being targeted for supersiting is among the best farmland in the world.

\*Semiconductor factories do not need great soil; just concrete.

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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.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mike Dill  
Manager of Policy and Advocacy

