

Submitter: Nicolle Black
On Behalf Of: myself
Committee: Joint Committee On Semiconductors
Measure: SB4

Dear co-chairs Sollman and Bynum,

This is a letter from my local CSA farmer (shortened to fit in this format) I hope it gets heard. The land that is being disputed over can not be brought back to Farmland after being used the way it is proposed in this bill. Farmland in the US and abroad are in need of a boost, backing them makes our communities stronger. Between Climate Change wiping out crops, and seeds becoming in short supply just those two problems are a big deal. Keeping our supply chains as local as possible is better for our communities and planet. Please push to keep this irreplaceable land Farmland for our future generations. Thankyou. Nicolle Black

-From Aaron, owner of Stoneboat Farms.-

I own and run a CSA farm here in the Helvetia area - just East of the areas being considered by SB4 for industrial development. I, my crew of ten people, and the 500 people who get food from us year round would be negatively affected by this bill. And the effects would extend far beyond us to our entire area, and eventually the state by irrevocably harming the land use laws and understanding that have made it possible for small farms like mine to grow and feed people in Oregon.

I am writing today to give you a little information about small farms in this area in general as well as my farm in particular and to let you know how sighting a semiconductor facility in agricultural land north of Hillsboro could negatively affect those of us who work on farms here. I'd also love to actually show you and/or your staff what I'm talking about on my farm should that be useful to you in making a decision. Please feel free to reach out should you have any questions or I can be of any help clarifying these impacts.

Here, as in much of the country, we represent a growing sector of the economy; I know that from experience. Every year I have multiple people on my crew planning to start their own farm in the area and a number of former employees have. For almost all of them the poor access to land that slows the growth and health of our industry. But I think talking just about the economic impact isn't a good measure for small farms or farms in general. Growing the food here gives Oregonians a lot of control over the food in their communities and, like Oregonians often do, we can stretch those locally grown resources to benefit our state and take care of more people. Here is a good article outlining how farmers markets help in food deserts (<https://catalog.extension.oregonstate.edu/em9215/html>) and I can attest that about 5% of my sales are to folks using a SNAP card or WIC checks every year. Of course, Oregon taxpayers, and you all in the legislature, have done their parts and

we have Double Up Food Bucks to stretch the federal benefits twice as far and encourage folks to eat fresh, local food.

One of the reasons Oregon's laws do a good job of protecting land for farmers like me is that we have long term planning processes that, normally, are not overridden for short term concerns or seemingly urgent new land uses. By planning out 50 years we offer a lot of stability to the farmers who are currently farming, we encourage cities to plan long term and not carelessly develop their land, and we help keep land prices stable and appropriate for their intended use.

I hope you can join us in protecting farmland and building a secure future for Oregon in a changing climate and changing world. Please take the long view on this issue - we're counting on you!

Thanks again for your time and your service,

Aaron Nichols

co-owner and manager, Stoneboat Farm