



March 15, 2023

To: Co-Chair Janeen Sollman, Co-Chair Janelle Bynum, Co-Vice Chair Tim Knopp, Co-Vice Chair Kim Wallan, and Members of the Joint Committee on Semiconductors

Re: Testimony on SB 4, Relating to economic development, declaring an emergency

Dear Co-Chair Janeen Sollman, Co-Chair Janelle Bynum, Co-Vice Chair Tim Knopp, Co-Vice Chair Kim Wallan, and Members of the Joint Committee on Semiconductors,

Tualatin Soil and Water Conservation District (TSWCD) works with residents to provide education, technical, and financial assistance to conserve and enhance natural resources across Washington County. We use practical and innovative methods to keep waterways, soils, habitats, forests, farms—and our community—healthy. We are a local, non-regulatory, subdivision of state government and operate as a special district.

The rural lands of Washington County are bolstered by rich soil, ample rainfall, and a mild climate. These conditions allow farms, vineyards, and livestock operations to flourish amongst vibrant and diverse rural communities.

Washington County is among the top-producing agricultural counties in the state. Washington County farms sold over \$201 million worth of agriculture products in 2017 alone. Our farmers produce almost 100 types of crops. These farms make huge contributions to the local economy.

In addition to important agriculture lands, Washington County is home to many important habitats and vital resources. Our creeks, streams, wetlands, and the Tualatin River provide habitat for fish and wildlife, drinking water, irrigation water, and recreation opportunities. Many habitats and resources exist on private properties, making landowners essential in the effort to conserve them. We have a long history of working closely with farmers and rural landowners to improve habitat and water quality while still meeting individual land-use goals such as farming, grazing, timber harvesting, and recreation.

Expanded Urban Growth Boundaries (UGBs) for specified industrial uses will have a detrimental impact on agriculture and natural resources in Washington County. Oregon's current land use laws already allow for designating industrial lands, without further expanding the UGBs. Bypassing the current process does not consider our county's high-value cropland and our important natural resources.

Thank you for the opportunity to voice our concerns regarding SB 4.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lacey M Townsend".

Lacey Townsend
Executive Director, Tualatin Soil and Water Conservation District