Submitter: Rodrigo Huerta

On Behalf Of: WA County Farmers Farmers Market Customers

Committee: Joint Committee On Semiconductors

Measure: SB4

I am writing to you as a small business owner, a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) member, a member of the Farmer's Market community, and a witness to the benefits of eating from and working with our local small farms here, mainly north Hillsboro west of hwy 26 and along West Union Rd east of hwy 26. I have lived in many cities in Oregon and know there are many that are more equipped for Industrial sites and can be ready to go in a shorter time span than may happen with plans to break ground on the most amazing soils here in WA county OR if urban growth boundries were to extend into exhisting zoned farmlands.

My wife and I had to make a decision in 2020 to switch our business model of a part time food truck serving festivals to a full time job because we lost our full time jobs in catering and restaurant work when the Covid 19 pandemic shut most of the country down. Farmer's markets made an amazing pivot to stay open and available to serve their mission first, and that was to provide access to locally grown produce and products to enhance community health and economic growth. We applied and were accepted with our food truck. With our experience cooking with some of the best restaurants in Portland, we knew that working with the freshest produce gives us the freshest product. Quickly we began meeting farmers, buying their produce, selling food at their CSA pick ups, gaining repeat customers immediately, and becoming CSA members ourselves. Last year was our 3rd year of business and 2nd year of growth. My partner and I made a promise to each other that if we were to start a food business it was to create not just a product but a service. We serve some of the most nutrient rich foods to our customers, ourselves, those that can't always afford a meal, and we spend our dollar within our local economy as well as receive from our local economy. It is the healthiest work we have ever participated in both our diet and mentality. We create meals from whole foods bought mostly within a 5-8 mile radius of where we live. There is a demand for it as our business has tripled since 2020. There is more worth and desire of our local farmlands in the future of our communities. Local government is blind to this, because they only see pasture and grass fields. With trending practices of small farms these lands can easily be regenerated into extremely productive produce and livestock farms. Industrial sites will create more jobs for people from out of the area sure but what about our community members who need jobs now. Farmlands will create more jobs for an already existing community and economy. A $42 billion value of OR agriculture is a tough gamble but our legislature and local leaders break faith in it as well as local land use agreements that have been made by research and development for the future of a better OR.

SB 4 is inequitable. In an equitable process you can give back what you take. The semiconductor industry is a resource sucker and polluter. Already we see large

pipelines for water being built making their way west. Sure we have great new technology for safe water to drink but we always have. Everyone in WA County knows these semiconductor facilities use way more water than combined households in Hillsboro. There is investment being made for this semiconductor industry, an industry that is laying off workers all over the country right now. Saving our current farmland is our future for OR. Farmland is the past of OR. This farmland is what some of us make a living on and how many of us stay healthy. These farmlands in danger of becoming apart of the urban growth boundry hold a thousand year investment for the health and safety of our communities.

The land not the industry will give you back what you put into it. Keep OR farmland protected for the sake of well planned land use laws in place. Create a more equitable SB4 for an OR we can all thrive in.

Thank you for reading.