



TUALATIN VALLEY IRRIGATION DISTRICT

2330 Elm Street, Forest Grove, OR 97116
Phone: (503) 357-3118
FAX: (503) 359-9510

February 27, 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 Sollman, Co-Chair Bynam, Co-Vice Chair Knopp, Co-Vice Chair Wallan, and Members of the Joint Committee on Semiconductors,

Tualatin Valley Irrigation District (TVID) operates and maintains the Tualatin Project, a United States Bureau of Reclamation Project (USBR). TVID delivers irrigation water to up to 17,000 acres of farmland annually in Washington County. SB 4 may have deleterious effects on farming practices within our District boundaries and may have financial consequences to both TVID operations and its patrons.

At least two municipalities within TVID boundaries, and with assessed TVID water rights, (Cities of Hillsboro and North Plains) could potentially expand their urban growth boundaries (UGBs) for specified industrial uses. Any such designated lands may encroach upon the irrigation district lands. This could have the potential to diminish irrigable lands within the district.

TVID and its patrons are currently in a 50-year repayment contract with USBR for construction of the Tualatin Project (i.e. Scoggins Dam, two pumping plant facilities and 120-miles of buried pipeline). A portion of the annual assessments TVID collects from our patrons goes toward the repayment contract. Any reduction in assessed lands would correlate with a reduction in collected revenues. This could put an enormous strain on our patrons' ability to pay since any lost revenues would likely need to be recouped by increased rates.

I understand the region's desire for economic growth, but at what cost? Many of our patrons are multi-generational farmers who are more and more often being negatively impacted by urban growth. Please keep in mind the effects that expanded UGBs may have on the local existing economic drivers, in particular irrigated agriculture. We ask that the Committee be vigilant in decision making that may have unforeseen consequences. I believe there are ways to facilitate the urban/rural interface that will no doubt continue to expand, most notably via communication and transparency.

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

Sincerely,

Bobby Nuvolini
District Manager
Tualatin Valley Irrigation District