

Friends of French Prairie

Friends of French Prairie
is an Oregon non-profit corporation

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March 2, 2023

To: Joint Commission on Semi-Conductors
Re: SB 4 Testimony

We submit this additional testimony after hearing Chair Tootie Smith's testimony before the Joint Commission on Semiconductors. The subject was consideration of rural lands in the Clackamas County portion of French Prairie for chip plant siting.

It is worth reminding the committee that Oregon has 16.3 million acres of ag land, of which only 4.6 million acres is High Value Farmland and **only 1.2 million acres is Prime Farmland**. The majority of both are located in the Willamette Valley and the highest quality is in French Prairie.

Much of Oregon's best vegetable farming occurs on this land. Willamette Valley's annual agriculture production is \$2.3 billion, a sizeable part of the state's agriculture sector. And ag is a major part of the state's economy. 80% of Oregon's agricultural production leaves the state, bringing outside money into our economy. This is land that produces the food to feed our citizens.

Farmland is also generally flat and has adequate water, and that begins to explain why the Clackamas County Commissioners support considering land within the French Prairie Rural Reserve for siting a chip plant. Flat farmland is the most desirable for development, but a little discussed fact is that average semiconductor factory consumes 20,000 tons of water a day—the daily water use of a city of 58,000! Wilsonville has a population of 19,000 – one half that of that!

It is important to understand that City of Wilsonville has adequate developable land within its UGB and does not require supersiting rural lands outside of its UGB. It is the Clackamas County Board of Commissioners and certain developers who are making the case for supersiting prime farmland in the French Prairie Rural Reserve for chip plant consideration.

The Clackamas County portion of French Prairie that comprises the French Prairie Rural Reserves is outside of City of Wilsonville. There are no other municipalities. That is to say, **there is no municipal infrastructure**. No municipal water. No sewage system. No stormwater management system. No transportation system. All of this has been extensively documented in the many law suits before the Court of Appeals concerning expansion of the Aurora State Airport.

I have no idea where Chair Smith gets her information, but the testimony she made before the Joint Committee last night makes clear it is not from objective data sources. Consider the following:

- City of Wilsonville used to get most of its municipal water from wells south of the Willamette River in French Prairie, but replaced that source with water from the river because of insufficient and unreliable supplies from its wells in the summer months. Which new wells are going to supply this chip plant?

- Outside of Charbonneau, which is a Wilsonville neighborhood, all the surrounding French Prairie lands are on septic systems. Wilsonville has made clear that it cannot and will not take additional sewage through the pipes under the Boone Bridge to its sewage treatment plant due to capacity constraints. A chip plant of this size cannot operate on septic tanks. Where will the sewage treatment plant be built, and where will the effluent outfall go?
- Even a superficial survey of the roads in this part of French Prairie, and all the adjoining paved land like the Aurora State Airport, make clear that stormwater management is via ditches alongside major roads, and all of them ultimately lead to the Pudding River and thus to the Willamette River. A plant of this size is hundreds of acres of impermeable surfaces. Where will that stormwater go?
- Proximity to I-5 does not constitute a transportation system. In fact, I-5 and the Boone Bridge are exactly the opposite due to capacity constraints on the bridge and ODOT's position that the existing freeway exits are too close together to allow an additional one.

I remind you once again that during the Urban/Rural Reserves process that resulted in the Grand Bargain, not only did the majority of the citizens of Wilsonville vote against industrial development south of the Willamette River in French Prairie, but the majority of citizens in the French Prairie portions of Clackamas and Marion County, whom we represent, did so as well!

Finally, claims that there are up to 1,000 acres available are beyond aspirational and simply not so. The rail access that was mentioned is on the other side of I-5 and there is no station. The regional airport is a general aviation airport with no commercial passenger service.

As stated previously, City of Wilsonville has adequate developable lands within its UGB. We urge you to remove "City of Wilsonville" from the list of sixteen cities to be considered for chip plant siting that involved lands outside the UGB, and to once and for all eliminate consideration of any land in the French Prairie Rural Reserve.

Sincerely



Ben Williams, President