

Submitter: Blaine Ackley

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Semiconductors

Measure: SB4

Co-Chairs Senator Sollman and Representative Bynum and Honorable Members of the Committee

Thank you for hearing my testimony today. My name is Blaine Ackley and I reside in Hillsboro. I have called Oregon home for the past 55 years.

I am testifying against Senate Bill 4 today for many reasons.

The rich soils of the Tualatin and Willamette Valleys are a gift to us from a historic and catastrophic flood event over many years of time. So let us be sure that if we are to repurpose this wonderful land we do so with great care, oversight, and supervision.

Senate Bill 4 does not seem to provide any supervision, oversight, or little transparency. From what I can read in the bill, the public will have one option to voice their opinions and offer factual data about the possible land use changes and loan program recipients?

How will Oregonians know that their tax dollars aren't going to be squandered on some venture that turns out not to be what was advertised. We need only recall the Department of Energy's solar credit fiasco just a few short years ago.

Also, these big decisions must be made by the Business Development Department just 30 days after the agency has received the application. That means that there will no time to check the application for accuracy. How do we even know the staff has the experience to process these applications? What if 20 applications arrive at the same time?

And then the whole matter goes to the governor who has the 30 days to make the decision. Talk about a fast track, many developers would love to have a decision in such a time frame.

And the Governor's decision is not subject to appeal.

So here is the equation – no established staff capability or expertise + no oversight + one opportunity for public input + little or no transparency + no right of appeal = a result that could be described as a trainwreck waiting to happen.

I respectfully ask the committee to do due diligence with this bill. Let us remember that we have land use laws for a reason: To protect our valuable land and soil.