

To: Joint Committee on Semiconductors
From: Aileen Kaye, Horse Owner
Date: February 27, 2023

Re: “No” on SB 4

Dear Co-Chair Sollman, Co-Chair Bynum, Co-Vice chair Knopp, Co-Vice Chair Wallan and members of the Committee,

I am vehemently against portions of SB 4 because they present a clear and present danger to Oregon’s land use planning system. The portions of this bill that allow supersiting by the governor needs to be removed from the bill. Supersiting should not be allowed by a governor, the legislature, county commissioners, or any other person or entity. The concept violates the basic tenets of Oregon’s land use planning system which gives us predictability and one of the best qualities of life in the United States of America.

I do not understand why some on this committee are focused on taking 1700 acres of prime farm land out of EFU and cementing it over. That would be short-sighted and totally irresponsible. We need to ask why areas that are already zoned for industrial use such as areas in **Corvallis** and **Medford** are not being considered.

I host a radio show, “Keeping Oregon Oregon”, devoted to the topic of Oregon’s land use planning system. I know how much Oregon’s quality of life means to people all over the state.

I have heard that some legislators think farmland used for growing grass seed is not valuable because grass seed is not “food”. Grass seed is a valuable commodity Oregon offers to Oregonians and to people all over the world. Also, those fields can easily be rotated to other crops. Those grass seed fields also slow global climate change. Conclusion: Oregon already has enough land zoned as industrial. Please focus on those properties and stop trying to convert some of the best soil in the United States into cement. Thank you for listening.

Please see quote below by a hero of Oregon, Governor Tom McCall:

“The interests of Oregon for today and in the future must be protected from the grasping wastrels of the land. We must respect another truism – that unlimited and unregulated growth, leads inexorably to a lowered quality of life.”

– Tom McCall

Featured in: Tom McCall Quotes