



March 3, 2023

TO: Joint Committee on Semiconductors
From: Oregon Association of Conservation Districts
RE: SB 4: Sections 10 and 11

Chair Senator Sollman and Committee Members:

The Oregon Association of Conservation Districts (OACD) represents Oregon's 45 Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs), special districts governed by elected boards. The Districts protect and enhance soil quality, water quality and quantity, and habitat by supporting voluntary conservation in partnership with private landowners and managers as well as federal, state, and nonprofit partners.

Sections 10 and 11 of SB 4 unnecessarily target our farms, forests, and watersheds for development. There is already a process in place for expansion of the urban growth boundary that allows for designating industrial lands. These sections of the bill create a process that does not weigh factors such as the displacement of high value croplands and protection of our natural resources.

I was a member of the Clackamas County Planning Commission a number of years ago when we carefully designated urban and rural reserves throughout the Metro region of three counties. Rural reserves are intended to be held for a period of 50 years or more and not to be the next developed lands. Sections 10 and 11 of SB 4 would allow leapfrogging these planned designations and devalue their protection.

We can provide sites for the semiconductor industry that is important to Oregon while also protecting our farm and forestlands and that is what we ask the committee to do by removing sections 10 and 11 from the bill.

Sincerely,

Jan Lee, Executive Director
(503) 545-9420
Jan.lee@oacd.org