

Submitter: Tracie Bullis
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Committee On Semiconductors
Measure: SB4

Dear Semiconductor Committee Members,

My name is Tracie Bullis and I reside in Hillsboro, Oregon. Thank you for considering my testimony today.

In my vocation as the Pastor of the Tualatin Plains Presbyterian Church, known locally as the historical Old Scotch Church, I have a strong interest in the land being considered for SB 4. Our church property is connected to the west of the current Rural Reserve property being offered by Hillsboro as additional potential property to move inside the Urban Growth Boundary along McKay Creek. Although our church elders are not traditionally eager to draw a political line on behalf of the breadth of our congregation, I have been invited to speak to the concerns over making changes to the current rural land designation. I am opposed to changing this land block from rural to urban land.

First, as a rural, vibrant, 125-member destination church, I am consistently reminded of the rich soils of our high-value farmland. We are a congregation full of members who honor the gift of the land around us. Oregon does not need to replace vital farmland in the middle of a climate crisis with chip factories. I call on you to preserve rich land.

More importantly, I write to call the committee to maintain the moral integrity of our democratic process. At least part of the Rural Reserve land being offered by Hillsboro has already been considered and settled in the “Grand Bargain” of 2014 when a 50-year plan was established and agreed to. Making a change now is being justified as an “emergency,” but there is plenty of land available within the Urban Growth Boundary to offer for semiconductor facilities without destroying public trust in previous agreements which were carefully negotiated less than ten years ago. There is no emergency here.

As a pastor of almost 25 years, I see human greed as a motivating factor in changing a land agreement barely 20% into its tenure. Again, I call on the moral conscious of local, county, and state leadership to keep the agreement of the Grand Bargain and not be subject to the lure of financial gain in exchange for rich farmland, especially when several plots within the Urban Growth Boundary are available for SB 4 use.

In order to keep public trust, adhere to previous agreements, and use land already available for semiconductor facilities, please amend SB 4 to require the Governor to

select sites inside current Urban Growth Boundaries. In addition, require the existing land agreements to be kept intact until they expire.