

Submitter: Karen Wolfgang
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Committee On Semiconductors
Measure: SB4

Dear Chairs and members of the semiconductor committee,

My name is Karen Wolfgang; I am a resident of the Centennial neighborhood in East Portland.

I've had this issue brought to my attention by friends who farm in Hillsboro, and am moved to offer my testimony to this committee. Fundamentally, I want to echo many others in saying that the Oregon way here would not be to pit tech against agriculture, or jobs against the environment.

In East Portland and East County, we have plenty of land that could be made available for advanced manufacturing (including sites identified on the semiconductor potential site inventory), but extra work is required because of land use history, financial structures, disinvestment from the City of Portland, etc. But we can't in good conscience let this process move toward developing high-productivity farmland while we ignore the futures of brownfields and -- oh, say, rock quarries?! -- in our jurisdictions.

As a professional engaged in planning for a future shaped by climate change, and a mom, and an activist, I am struck by the total lack of evident consideration of this most pressing issue in this semiconductor industry conversation. Our future will be substantially shaped by climate change, and we need to consider that in our planning. I understand that there is a timeframe on this semiconductor development opportunity, but we need to be planning for the future we're moving into, not in a way that's reactive and short-sighted.

- Food security: we HAVE to keep in mind what our region needs long-term -- once farmland is converted to industrial use, it doesn't go back
- Environmental issues: brownfield remediation, smart water use -- what if industrial development was a catalyst for site cleanup and reassessment of essential resource uses?
- Jobs and workforce development: consider where people are, and where they're likely to be, including the increased pressure due to climate migration
- Land use: how short-sighted to upend our land use system and go back on promises made about local development!!
- Financial structures: intergovernmental sharing of costs and benefits around land use financing (and other issues) seems to be a common thread of this conversation, and it merits open-hearted reconsideration at this point in time

Basically, I would be terribly chagrined if hitherto undeveloped land was developed to take advantage of this opportunity, while our East Portland and County communities (not to mention other industrial lands throughout the state) are overlooked and under engaged.

Thank you for your consideration.

Karen