

Submitter: Debby Garman
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Committee On Semiconductors
Measure: SB4

Dear Senators Sollman and Knopp and Representatives Bynum and Wallan,

I am aware of the tremendous opportunity that the CHIPS Act represents and also of the limited time we have to make use of the money.

However, Sections 10 and 11 of SB 4 would take irreplaceable land out of farms, forests, and watersheds for development. Oregon has an excellent and unique process for expansion of the urban growth boundary that already allows for designating industrial lands. Sections 10 and 11 of SB 4 bypass that process and do not weigh factors such as high value cropland and protection of our natural resources. Our urban boundaries are there for a reason—to protect existing forests and farm lands that will nourish us in years to come.

New chip factories can benefit from existing infrastructure cost savings if they are created within existing urban areas. I live in Hillsboro and there seems to be a massive amount of unused parking space at existing Intel facilities, and post-Covid, there are plenty of other unsuccessful mall and business areas that could be repurposed instead of paving over our rich fertile farmlands and forests that produce food and clean air for us.

Good governance requires a thoughtful balance of policy choices, and the value of preserving natural resources needs to be weighed as carefully as jobs and economic development.

Thank you.