

March 8, 2023

Submitter: Jean Edwards Muir
RE: SB4

Dear Joint Committee on Semiconductors Measure,

Our family blueberry farm located on EFU property borders McKay Creek on NW Scotch Church Rd in Washington County. We have farmed this property for over 40 years.

I have been engaged in efforts to maintain the agricultural and rural character of Washington County for the past 20 or so years. I oppose changing the current rural land designation, primary because the land under consideration is productive, high-value farm land.

I concur with the testimony of the Historical Tualatin Plains Presbyterian Church (Old Scotch Church) submitted to you at a recent hearing. I ask that state maintain the moral integrity of our democratic process in this matter. Contrary to the “Grand Bargain” of 2014 when a 50 year plan was established and agreed to, the present argument before you is apparently that an “emergency” exists. This stance is disingenuous.

There is more than sufficient land available within the Urban Growth boundary to build semi-conductor facilities without destroying public trust in our land use decision making process. There is no emergency. I ask that development be directed to the other existing, currently designated sites, in Hillsboro and various other municipal jurisdictions in the state who are also seeking to take advantage of this federal windfall. There are ample parcels of industrial development land without sacrificing more prime farmland here. I therefore ask the Committee to remove Sections 10 and 11 from SB 4.

I also call on the moral conscience of local, county and state leadership to keep the agreement of the Grand Bargain and to preserve the public trust. The political and economic rush to forego rich farmlands of our agricultural heritage for financial gain at this time is unacceptable and short sighted.

Thank you for considering my comments
Jean Edwards Muir
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