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January 30, 2023

Joint Committee on Semiconductors  
900 Court St., NE  
Salem, OR, 97301

To: Joint Committee on Semiconductors

**RE: Industrial Land Meeting, 1/30/2023, 5:00 PM**

Dear Co-Chairs Rep. Bynum and Sen. Sollman:

Friends of Marion County (FoMC) is an independent 501(c)(3) farmland protection organization founded in 1998. Our mission is to protect farm and forestland, parks, and open space in Marion County.

Founded in 1998, FoMC has been working tirelessly to protect farmland in Marion County. Salem, the largest city in Marion County and the second largest city in the State of Oregon has within its UGB the very large Mill Creek Corporate Center.

In the effort to protect high-value farmland and provide more industrial land within Salem's UGB Governor Kulongoski allocated a very large site for industrial development adjacent to the former Oregon State prison farm, the Mill Creek Corporate Center.

According to the property manager's website the center currently has available 238 acres of shovel-ready employment land. (<http://www.millcreekcorpcenter.com/location.html>)

### **FARMLAND UNDER THREAT**

With the ending of the Covid-19 pandemic restrictions Marion County has experienced a flood of applications. Since Marion County is considered to have some of the most productive agricultural lands in Oregon, the county has been the focus of conversion of this farmland to non-farm uses. Among the applications are non-farm and farm dwellings, conditional use applications for many other uses including temporary hardship dwellings, dog boarding and training facilities, educational experience centers, solar energy facilities, and many others.

Sullivan and Eber's article in the San Joaquin Agricultural Law Review lists the non-farm uses from 1963-2009.<sup>1</sup> Although not all of those uses e.g. 215.283(1) are discretionary, LCDC has the authority to limit or impose additional regulatory safeguards around those uses without getting legislative consent.

1000 Friends of Oregon in its June 2020 report, Death by 1000 Cuts: A 10-Point Plan to Protect Oregon's Farmland, has outlined conditional uses and other applications which are harmful to the preservation of farmland.<sup>2</sup>

## **WATER USEAGE**

The recent rains have obscured that fact that much of Oregon is in a decade's long drought. On local nightly news programs even the rainy weather forecast is welcome with a sigh of relief. Farhang Shadman, director of the University of Arizona's specialized semiconductor research lab, said in a recent podcast with tech magazine IEEE Spectrum: "One [chip] manufacturing plant uses anywhere between 2 to 4 million gallons of very, very pure water — we call it ultrapure water — per day.

## **SURFACE & GROUNDWATER CONTAMINATION**

The semiconductor industry also adversely impacts the environment, causing groundwater and air pollution and generating toxic waste as a by-product of the semiconductor manufacturing process.

## **CONCLUSION**

The Joint Committee on Semiconductors should avoid the legislature's past practice of super siting semiconductor plants. Once permitted these decisions will adversely affect our farming industry, the largest and the most diverse employer in Oregon.

Thanks so much for listening.

Roger Kaye, President  
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1. Summary of Uses Allowed in EFU Zones, Appendix 1, pgs. 63-69, Farmland Protection in Oregon 1961-2009, THE LONG AND WINDING ROAD: FARMLAND PROTECTION IN OREGON 1961 – 2009, SAN JOAQUIN AGRICULTURAL LAW REVIEW, VOLUME 18 2008-2009 NUMBER 1

The initial non-farm uses provided for in 1963 were public and private schools, churches, public or non-profit group parks, playgrounds or community centers, golf courses, utility facilities, and farm dwellings. Except for the deletion of farm dwellings between 1967 and 1969 there were no changes to the permitted non-farm uses. In 1973 commercial activities in conjunction with farm use, mining activities, private parks, playgrounds, hunting and fishing preserves and campgrounds, commercial power generating facilities and non-farm dwellings were added. From 1975 to 2009 there were 61 additional changes, almost all new uses.

2. Death by 1000 Cuts: A 10-Point Plan to Protect Oregon's Farmland, June, 2020, Executive Summary <https://friends.org/news/2020/6/death-1000-cuts-10-point-plan-protect-oregons-farmland> .