

February 5, 2023

Co-Chairs Sollman and Bynum and Members of the Joint Committee on Semiconductors:

I am writing to you today in support of legislative action to address large sites in Washington County – one in Hillsboro and one in North Plains – as it pertains to the CHIPS Act.

I am a 1,000-acre farmer in Washington County. My family has been farming in the area for over 85 years. Through the years growth has occurred for the betterment of the area – which has included conversion of agricultural ground to other uses - and with the CHIPS Act, we are again in one of these growth phases.

The CHIPS Act presents a current and multi-generational opportunity for the State of Oregon. It is my recommendation that the two large sites in Hillsboro and North Plains under consideration for acquisition for this purpose should be embraced. The impact to agriculture will be minimal in that these parcels have direct access to freeways and will not impede the movement of farm equipment to existing agricultural parcels, and the benefit to the State of Oregon will be exponential given the potential tax base increase.

The State needs this kind of growth to provide jobs and tax base to help everyone in this State. Current law as decided by the legislature in 2014 impedes growth of this nature. We were not included as a stakeholder in the legislative decision, which was not discussed in an open forum and nor did it follow protocols of land use. Given the extenuating circumstances of opportunity of the CHIPS act, the legislature should revisit the decision it made nearly a decade ago to prohibit urban development. Both of these sites should be utilized so the State does not miss the opportunity to grow tax revenue to fund projects that are deemed important such as schools, roads, etc.

As a local farmer I think adding these properties to the city will benefit everyone and not be a detriment to agriculture. It is important to have Oregon foster multiple industries. The inclusion of this land will do just that. Agriculture can coexist with these industrial properties to the betterment of all in the state.

Respectfully,



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