

Testimony for the THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON SEMICONDUCTORS

From: Linda de Boer, Hillsboro, Oregon
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Dear Chair Sollman, Chair Bynum, Co-Vice Chair Knopp, Co-Vice Chair Wallan, Senator Hansell, Senator Lieber, Senator Meek, Representative Diehl, Representative Gomberg, Representative Helfrich, Representative Hudson, Representative Levy, Representative Nguyen, and Representative Sosa:

Although the term FOMO, Fear of Missing Out, had not yet been coined in 1636, the concept was a major part of the Netherlands' infamous tulip mania where bidding for the striped Viceroy tulip caused the price to soar upwards to above the equivalent of \$750,000 per bulb. While this tulip mania incident has been used as a cautionary tale for economic bubbles, it is maybe a better example of FOMO. Wealthy Dutch wanted in on the action, and some investors obviously lost a lot of money. However, as we all know, the bulb and flower industry in the Netherlands grew after the boom/bust Viceroy tulip debacle. In fact the bulb and flower industry is now a significant percent of the GNP of the Netherlands. The value of this industry is not to be taken lightly. Neither is the high value of the semiconductor industry to be taken lightly. It is important to our national economy and particularly important here in Washington County. However, growth free of extraordinary measures and manipulation often proves superior to growth from jumping on a bandwagon abandoning all previously existing guiding principles. While the hi-tech industry has added so much value and diversity to our state, its growth needs to correspond with the long term well-being of Oregon. I believe we are in danger of having the CHIPS Act become our Viceroy tulip. Losses can be in old Dutch guilders; losses can be in US dollars; and losses can be in the disappearance of natural resources and quality of life forever.

My introductory paragraph is Dutch-inspired due to my late husband, Harry de Boer, who came to the University of Oregon through an exchange program with his college in the Netherlands. He said by the time he received his MBA in 1969, he had learned that Oregon was the best place in the world to live. Tom McCall was governor, and we had already seen the Beach Bill signed in 1967. There was inspiration for SB 100, which would go into law the same year that we built our home in the woods of Helvetia in 1973. We read about 1000 Friends of Oregon being formed, but certainly had no cash to donate after building aforementioned home. We were honored to live in a beautiful place in a State who valued the land and knew how to protect it through land use planning.

While our hilly pasture and trees have limited our own small acreage to some animals here and there, we have been honored to live among Helvetia's farmers. We have witnessed a lot in the last half century. In the last decade especially, we have viewed all too closely some of their problems. Since the acreage a farmer works is not always connected, farmers often use our rural roads to move from field to field. These roads are now bursting with commuters seeking a faster way home from work. The short cuts have moved further into agricultural land as folks seek a cut through to Cornelius Pass or a way to avoid Sunset Highway. I have lost count of the accidents and near-misses that I have seen as commuters try to pass farming equipment like tillers and combines. Life is already dangerous at the edge of the new industrial, or sometimes commercial, areas. We must stop further intrusion into agricultural space. Agriculture in Washington County is a significant economic asset, a way to maintain diversification, an aid in slowing global warming, and an opportunity to keep a link to the land that is a valued mainstay in our state, not to mention a part in putting food on the nation's tables. We have world class soils for the latter challenge that deserve more than to be covered with buildings and parking lots.

I am lucky to live in an area that also gives me an insight into other valuable contributions of rural land located fairly near the city. Our road has happily become a center for bikers and hikers and careful Sunday drivers who are taking in the scenery. The last of these I chatted with was a lovely couple from a senior living community in Bethany who told me how they value this area because they can get some fresh air and nature without having to drive too far. I have met many walkers who park their vehicles to walk and sometimes stop to tell me about both animals and plants they have observed. They often ask me questions like, what is the beautiful red flowering crop? Yes, we do have gorgeous clover fields but no tulip fields like the area South of the freeway earmarked for industrialization.

We should be more than reluctant to give up valuable assets that can never be replaced. The laws made fifty years ago were made for times like this! The laws are not needed if no one wants to overtake agricultural land or violate environmental guide lines. They are needed now! Let's honor our precious land use planning and traditions of conservation and balance.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda de Boer