

Senator Sollman, Co-Chair
Representative Bynum, Co-Chair
Senator Knopp, Co-Vice Chair
Representative Wallan, Co-Vice Chair
Joint Committee on Semiconductors
Oregon State Legislature
Salem, OR 97301

2/25/2023

Re: Opposition to Senate Bill 4

Hello,

SB 4 is before you. It will declare an emergency. The emergency status is a dream come true for developers. There are thousands of acres within the UGBs (Urban Growth Boundary) in Oregon. Let them build within those designated areas. That is exactly why those areas were brought into the UGBs. A twenty year growth plan. There is no shortage of land available for development within the UGBs. The real emergency is the staggering loss of family farms and farmable land in Oregon.

I am a 3rd generation farmer just outside of Woodburn and at the age of 68 I have watched as farming communities have suffered the effects of the land use decisions. As a child there were about 30 neighbor farming families within a mile of us. Now because of the good intentions of policy makers there are about about 9 farming families in the same area. That is a loss of 21 farm families (over 60%) that used to shop, dine, play, send their kids to schools and attend church in Mt. Angel or Woodburn. The loss of farm families that used to buy farm equipment and supplies from nearby dealers. That is a staggering economic and social loss for just our area. And, there are many rural areas, like mine, that have been negatively effected.

Right now, you, the Joint Semiconductor Committee are getting ready to allow the Governor to change the UGB at will - SB 4 Section 10, which says that “the Governor may, by executive order, bring within an existing urban growth boundary designated lands.” The Governors action would circumvent land use laws that have been mostly followed for decades. And in the process giving one person way to much power to decide the future of our farms and farm families. The SB4 says there will be no appealing the Governors decision.

There are thousands of acres within Oregon UGBs just waiting to be used. Use them before eating up more farmland. Inflation is hurting our communities right now. The supply chains that bring food to our store shelves are strained beyond what Legislators

imagined they would be. Fresh food is coming from farther away. Shipping costs will not get better anytime soon. Our local food supply will become even more crucial as we grow into the future. Yes, there will be jobs for folks...folks who need to eat. We need local farms now and into the future to feed our growing population.

Enjoy those semiconductor chips with your dip.

Use the designated lands first. There was a lot of thought, planning and a whole lot of public funds used to create areas for development. Don't make a mockery of the process. Don't waste all that time, resources and taxpayer money.

It doesn't matter what the intent of the bills and changes are, the effects are the same. Small farms and all of the life and economic benefits they bring to cities and towns in Oregon are cast away for the sake of development.

Plan for Oregon's future. Our future.

Try eating a parking lot for dinner.

Jim Hinsvark
Farmer
Father
Voter