

Submitter: Tabitha Boschetti

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Semiconductors

Measure: SB4

When I was a teenager, my family moved to Oregon from the east coast to follow my dad's manufacturing job at one of our major semiconductor companies. Part of what made that move make sense for my family was that my parents would be able to afford to live much closer to my dad's job in an attractive community. My dad no longer had an hour and a half commute; he took up other hobbies and had more time for family---it was a great move for my family.

As a teenager, I was also inspired by Oregon's strategies for land use planning. Flash forward to today, I'm now a professional land use planner who works with community members on small scale projects and developers on everything from warehouses to subdivisions. I know first-hand many of the strategies that jurisdictions have to protect industrial employment land inside the UGB--retaining our ability to grow jobs and, critically, keep those jobs connected to where people live. No matter how many people call the planning office thinking they're the first person to imagine putting a pickleball club in the new spec warehouse, our system recognizes the importance of industrial lands.

That's part of why I think it's poor policy for this bill to build in provisions that would allow for new semiconductor facilities outside of the UGB. We have a system that has reserved industrial lands that are both closer to existing infrastructure to serve those sites, and closer to the places where future employees will live and play. Our UGB helps concentrate investments so we get the most out of our infrastructure (something we even then still struggle to provide) and serves families like mine who want to have good jobs without the hour and a half commute. Our economic goals can align with our goals from climate friendly communities when we invest in industrial sites inside the UGB and respect these parts of our land use system that are still serving us well.

I encourage a revision to this bill to eliminate the pieces that call for inefficient investments outside the UGB, and place more emphasis on site-readiness and connecting industry to good places to both live and work by focusing inside on already designated industrial lands. We can harness existing economic development and infrastructure plans and benefit local communities, we can protect farm and forestland outside the UGB, and we can create the kinds of employment hubs and communities that meaningfully attract and retain families for generations.

Thank you.