

Submitter: Susan Byrd
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Committee On Semiconductors
Measure: SB4

Friday March 3, 2023

Dear Senators and Legislators supporting SB 4,

As an Oregon citizen and voter, I am writing to address some concerns regarding SB 4 as it was introduced.

Across Oregon we are seeing unprecedented growth and development of lands once considered “safe” because of the zoning designations and the Urban Growth Boundary. Oregon’s once robust Master Plan is being eroded at a rapid rate. We need to reaffirm our commitment to this diverse landscape by upholding our Planning and not granting variance after variance. Our cherished way of life is changing due to pressures Planning was designed to safeguard against.

Sections 10 and 11 of SB 4 place additional pressure on farmland, forests and watersheds. There is ample space within this State to allow for some necessary commercial/industrial growth, but the benefit must always be measured against the cost. No one is making new land. We will always need farmland, forests, and watersheds as they sustain us, not the other way around. It is our duty and obligation to protect these spaces – at all costs.

Please remove Sections 10 and 11 and propose a Senate Bill that respects and upholds already existing planning, especially regarding the Urban Growth Boundary(ies).

Respectfully,

Susan Byrd