

Submitter: Meeky Blizzard
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Committee On Semiconductors
Measure: SB4

March 3,
2023

Joint Committee on Semi-Conductors and Legislative Leadership
Oregon State Legislature

Re: SB 4

Dear Chair Sollman, Chair Bynum, Vice-Chair Knopp, and Vice-Chair Wallan

I oppose the passage of SB 4.

Oregon's Land Use Laws were adopted to help Oregonians create and sustain a robust economy while ensuring the protection of the state's valuable resource lands for future generations. This balance is not a static one; since its adoption in the mid-1970s, this arrangement continues to evolve to meet present-day challenges.

SB 4 would undermine the Land Use System that has enabled Oregon to maintain a healthy economy while sustaining the irreplaceable natural resources that not only fuel our economy but add immeasurably to our quality of life.

While the CHIPS Act presents us with the opportunity to attract investments from the semi-conductor sector, it should not be a reason to sacrifice our long-standing and effective land use laws. There are numerous industrial sites already within the UGB that are suitable for new development; indeed, many Oregon cities are counting on the development of these parcels to provide jobs and increased tax revenue. Conversely, subverting our land use system to site new industrial uses on land outside the UGB not only deprives our cities of new investment opportunities, it destroys critical resource lands that cannot be replaced.

SB 4 plays into the seductive power of an 'easy solution' when it in fact would destroy our commitment to ensuring Oregonians a sustainable environment and a sustainable economic future.

I urge you to oppose SB 4.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Meeky Blizzard
Beaverton OR

cc: Senate President Robert Wagner
House Speaker Dan Rayfield
Senate Majority Leader Kate Lieber
House Majority Leader Julie Fahey
Governor Kotek's Economic Development and Workforce Advisor Vince Porter