

Submitter: Linda de Boer
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Committee On Semiconductors
Measure: SB4

Letter in Opposition to SB 4

Chair Bynum and Chair Sollman and members of the Joint Committee on Semiconductors:

Bill Gates, Microsoft cofounder, wrote: "The agriculture segment is important." Gates has put his money where his mouth is purchasing 269,000 acres of agricultural land across several states. (AP News, May 2, 2002) Other billionaires such as Warren Buffett concur, also purchasing food-growing land and citing its importance.

This begs the question: Why are some Oregon officials eager to cover up some of the country's best agricultural land with concrete? Washington County has already sacrificed high value farmland for the semiconductor business. It's time to preserve some balance by not reaching outside the UGB for more ag land.

I oppose SB 4, as I do not believe that the Governor should be empowered to overrule well-thought-out laws and decisions that have preserved Washington County agricultural lands outside the UGB.

Please explore other sites that have been suggested that are already within the UGB. The important semiconductor business can thrive without destroying both Oregon agricultural lands and our land use policy.

Thank you for your service in the legislature.

Sincerely,
Linda de Boer
Rural Washington County