

Co-charis Sollman and Bynum, members of the committee. For the record my name is Aaron Nichols I am the manager and co-owner of Stoneboat farm, a five-hundred member CSA vegetable farm in Helvetia, just east of some of the land being considered for inclusion in the UGB.

I have written to all of you outlining the detrimental effects on my industry and business of the proposed radical land use changes and I had a testimony prepared along those lines. But right now, sitting here I can't give that testimony. I can't pretend that this is a normal legislative process like the ones I have been a part of in the past; ones where I will be heard and my evidence considered.

From my land I can see the excellent farmland being considered for semiconductor production. My business, the ten people I employ and the hundreds I feed will be detrimentally affected by this bill yet I have certainly not been listened to nor even informed of the planned actions and legislation by anyone on this committee or anyone on its behalf. When a neighbor wants to improve a mobile home in our area, we get a letter in the mail; when a business wants a liquor license, they put up a sign asking for public comment; but when we are considering major changes to fifty years of land use policy and norms, when we are considering giving the governor power to unilaterally change the UGB to the detriment of my farm, I don't even get an explanation or a "thanks for your thoughts" from my own representatives when I write to their offices about the issue.

I don't think this is because I am not sufficiently civically engaged: I was on Chuck Riley's small business council, I've had Senator Sollman to my farm to discuss farm and land use issues, I've been to Representative Sosa's coffees and read his news letter. Invariably when I attend a coffee or meet a representative, they thank me for the work I do and acknowledge the value of growing food. That's appreciated and thoughtful but I can't grow food in a thank you and I can't farm an acknowledgment. I need land to farm and this bill makes access to land nearly impossible in my area.

Losing the land near Hillsboro and North Plains would be a huge loss but I worry that that would be only the beginning. Simply by being passed and enacted, SB 4 in its present form sets up an alternative land use system for well connected and powerful developers, municipalities, and landowners. One that bypasses the land use and farmland experts, avoids public comment, and doesn't even inform those directly affected. This bill could lead to many thousands of acres of excellent farmland being taken for uses significantly less beneficial than a semiconductor fab. And finally, I am angry because I don't know what we'll tell our children when they realize that we protected farmland *almost* until they needed it. That we *used* to have thousands of acres that could have produced their food as climate change makes much of Southern California and Arizona too hot to farm. That they can't get veggies from the CSA they did when they were young because it's now a widened road or a subdivision for high tech workers. That an aging semi-conductor fab across town is exporting silicon chips but they can't afford a bag of salad. Can we tell them that a few billion dollars of Federal grants were worth our land use protections? That we traded their food security for our microchip sovereignty?

I don't want you to thank me for being here today and I don't need you to acknowledge my hard work. If you appreciate farming, if you are thankful for the food and farm products we use every day, if you are worried about our food security, then don't leave us your thanks and appreciation. Strip sections 10 and 11 from SB 4 and leave us the land we need to farm.

