

Submitter: Dawn Miller
On Behalf Of: farmers of Hillsboro and Helvetia areas
Committee: Joint Committee On Semiconductors
Measure: SB4

Thank you committee members for considering this testimony.

My sons co-jointly own Stoneboat farm and CAMPO cooperative farm in Helvetia.

Aaron Nichols, my elder son, submitted testimony both written and oral to your committee, with compelling and emphatic presentation. My younger son, Jesse Nichols, submitted both written and oral testimony on HB2998 regarding soil health and sustainable farming practices. I would like to add my thoughts on SB4.

This is the 8th productive year of the farms' existence, with each year succeeding the next in producing sustainable, high quality food for Community Sustained Agriculture customers, several farmers markets, food banks, and not-for-profit concerns such as Western Farm Workers. When the farm was purchased, it was acres of wasted soil and the left over remains of a tree farm. Over the years, the soil has been greatly improved, allowing my sons to hire 10+ employees and train farmer interns about sustainable, healthy farm practices. It has been my great pleasure to watch the farm grow along with my grandchildren...who are also interested in and happy to be living on the farm.

My concern, then, is the prospect of land surrounding and/or adjacent to my sons' farm being used for high tech facilities. I understand that there is federal money available for encouraging these projects, and that there is an urgency in submitting to obtain these dollars, but I object to having good farm land - land that can be used to feed many more families and provide jobs for new farmers and farm workers - considered for this purpose.

I live in Eugene. The Hynix facility here has been vacant for many years, but I would certainly consider this space that was once used for a similar purpose more amenable to a chip factory than farmland in Hillsboro. I'm certain that there are many other more "shovel ready" areas in this state that would not impinge on farm land, in fact, parts of the state would more openly embrace a high tech facility and the jobs it would bring to their area.

In closing, I ask that you consider the long picture...of more good farm land being used for farming.....and not the short term goal of high tech development in an area not suited for its purpose.

Thank you for your consideration

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