

Submitter: Robert Emmons  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Joint Committee On Semiconductors  
Measure: SB4

Joint Committee on Semi-conductors  
Re: Opposition to SB 4

Members of the committee,

Please accept this late addendum and correction to my 3/9 comments regarding SB 4.

In a misguided defense of keeping semi-conductor industries off lands outside of UGBs I atypically and shamefully succumbed to a suggestion that they could readily be accommodated on certain lands within UGBs. But the truth is that unilateral pandering to semiconductor corporations coupled with the governor's call for 140,000 + new houses are just two of the latest examples of the steady erosion of and now full-scale attack on our land use goals and protections to feed the insatiable growth machine. It's been a long way down from Tom McCall to Tina Kotek.

Missing, as usual, in the zeal to "supersite" a semi-conductor corporation in Oregon is any consideration of its impact on population growth and consumption, the root causes of our environmental degradation and global warming, any esteem or respect for the prescient and stolid work of visionaries, such as Tom McCall and Henry Richmond, and a callous and shameful disregard for the environmental legacy imposed on future generations. Those concerns are the crucible in which the proposal before you should be tested.

Underlying this and all land use issues is the implicit belief that growth is inevitable and desirable and can—and should-- be accommodated. But growth is not inevitable; it is a matter of choice. Given that infinite growth on a finite planet is both a logistical and ecological fallacy, it follows that it cannot be accommodated.

When Tom McCall stood at Oregon's border and welcomed people to visit but not to stay he understood the meaning of carrying capacity and the tragedy of the commons. It ought to be a lesson that influences every land use decision by the Governor, LCDC, the legislature and every commission, council and planning department in the state.

Thank you.

Robert Emmons, President  
LandWatch Lane County