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On Behalf Of: CSA and farmer market customers
Committee: Joint Committee On Semiconductors
Measure: SB4

I want to submit additional testimony as a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) and Farmer's Market customer. Weekly pick ups on the farm and at the farmers market bring so much joy to our family and families that participate. It is a very different experience shopping at a grocery store, that which we all still do, than going to pick up our produce at the market or on the farm. Our grocery store trips have even become a bit easier because we spend less time searching for and through the produce on display. From what I have noticed over the years is the difference in attitude of customers shopping at markets than at the grocery store. Being outdoors and purchasing food from local farmers provides the connection we all need and want whether we know it or not. Taking away perfectly good farmland takes away an opportunity for these experiences to grow.

Like I said in my testimony before, these lands that our local leaders see as just grass or pasture are not just that. These lands are alive and can easily become high yield producing farms. Farms that our local leaders could even claim add revenue to the local city, county, state, and federal economies. And for as long as these farmlands are zoned to do so the future is determined in a fact that we have a resource and resources.

There is a farmer that has been coming to Salem to advocate for these lands, his, his neighbors, and his community's. I watch him interact with each and every member of his CSA. I watch them interact with him and these interactions provide healthy connection to the food they eat. I live here in Hillsboro and I have a sister that lives in Portland that shares the same experience when she picks up her CSA from the farmers market. I attend other CSA pick ups on other farms as well and see the same results and connection between farmers and the customers buying from them. I will speak for myself, my partner, and my sister's family; being apart of our CSA has changed our lives for the better. We are healthier. We have developed healthier relationships. We understand the feeling of connection and belonging that spreads through the many different aspects of our lives. We talk about it all the time and are so thankful for it. I bring up this farmer because he doesn't ask anything of his customers and gives us so much. But he has asked us to help and sign a petition and/or give testimony against the current SB4 proposal. Over the last few weeks my imagination has been constructive and curious to why doesn't our local government work with the state from where we are currently in the land zones. I read a similar example written by this farmer. Why reconstruct when OR is an economy valued for agriculture. Add to what already exists. Sounds like a recipe for a stronger more certain economy. There are many active professionals, and retired in fact, that can help legislature with programming to turn these farmlands into productive farms. Why cover up land that can produce millions of dollars in revenue for the economy? Why

not provide access to land that has become very difficult to afford? There are many young farmers that would love to afford or just have an opportunity to farm land if obtainable. Personally, my wife and I would be farming on land and producing ready to eat food from it if it was more affordable. It falls in line with our mission of service to those around us. We ask SB4 to be rewritten in a way that is more equitable for a larger population of OR rather than a smaller population that may gain momentarily from the projected proposal that in itself is still uncertain. Again, we live in a large OR and there are many better suited sites for industry involved in the CHIPS Act. There are better intended, more sustainable, and equitable choices for SB4 that can provide a stronger future than what SB4 currently intends. We ask you to reconsider rezoning any farmland.