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Joint Committee on Semiconductors
Oregon State Legislature
Salem, Oregon

I am writing in opposition to SB 4 as currently written. My objections are in two parts:

1. Section 10, regarding the Governor bringing rural lands into the urban growth boundary (UGB) via executive order. I live in Washington County, and our region has designated urban and rural reserves that were established via extensive public process. This provision upends that process. Oregon's land use laws were created in part to conserve prime farmland, and this bill would violate the spirit and intent of those laws. This provision must be struck from the bill if it is to be passed.
2. My second objection relates to expediting industry that consumes enormous amounts of water without a process to determine how and where that water will come from. In Washington County, the Tualatin River basin has been over-appropriated for years. Clean Water Services releases water from upstream dams to maintain streamflow in summer. Enabling tremendous consumption of water, with likely increases in temperature of any water released back into the supply, places additional strain on a system that struggles to provide for the people and businesses we have now. It may place aquatic resources like trout and salmon at further risk than they are already. Ratepayers like me already fund work by Clean Water Services to reckon with elevated stream temperatures. We do not need to subsidize industry. Any provisions for streamlining establishment of additional semiconductor businesses must include requirements for conserving the quantity and quality (e.g., temperature) of water in the basin, at industry's expense.

Thank you for your consideration. The semiconductor industry is important in Oregon, yet any expansion must not come at the expense of farms, residents and the natural resources that make this state a wonderful place to live.

Very truly yours,

Elaine M. Stewart