



Save Helvetia
13260 N.W. Bishop Road
Hillsboro, Oregon 97124

www.SaveHelvetia.org

March 13, 2023

RE: SB 4 - Industrial Site Selection - Sections 10 and 11 - OPPOSED

Honorable Members of the Joint Committee on Semiconductors

Replacing farmland with Semiconductor Fabs = URBAN SPRAWL

Oregon's Land Use Laws prevent URBAN SPRAWL

I lived and worked in Silicon Valley for thirty years. It is not a great model for quality of life, as I wrote in previous testimony. The opportunity to live in a state that had a thoughtful, planned process for expansion and not haphazard **SPRAWL** was the reason I and many other people came to Oregon. The City of Hillsboro's insatiable appetite for land will **NOT** end with **SPRAWLING** onto 1,700 acres of productive farmland in N. Hillsboro. As far back as their 2009 EOA, they have proclaimed their intention to be the "Silicon Forest", and compete with Austin, Colorado Springs, the NC Triangle, Phoenix. The problem with that aspiration is that those cities are surrounded by desert or non-productive lands and they can afford to **SPRAWL** onto thousands of adjoining acres. Hillsboro is surrounded by fertile, productive farmland that contributes to Washington County's \$300 million annually of agricultural production and to the food security of hundreds of area families.

In 1973, the Oregon legislature passed the unique SB 100, creating the concept of Urban Growth Boundaries around cities to **PREVENT URBAN SPRAWL** and provide a mechanism for balance between rural and urban areas. SB 4 does a great disservice to the wisdom of the 1973 Legislature by dismantling the essence of that extraordinary SB 100. Your words ring hollow to me when you say, "We're just cutting red tape" and "This is just a one-time thing". It is not a one-time thing: This is the fourth time that Senator Sollman and developer Tom Vanderzanden (with the tacit support of City of Hillsboro) have attempted to nullify all three of Oregon's land use laws (SB 100, SB 1011, HB 4078) by using the legislature to pass a new law

that benefits a few landowners at the expense of the farming community and puts pressure on the farmland further west and north to succumb to Hillsboro's gluttonous **SPRAWL**.

In 2007, Oregon's second land use law was passed, SB 1011. It was designed to provide 30-50 years of certainty to farmers, developers, and cities by establishing the concept of urban and rural reserves. Thousands of people spent thousands of hours creating the final maps of urban, rural and undesignated reserve lands. In the four years from 2009 to 2013, I personally testified at more than 30 hearings in front of the Washington County Board of Commissioners, Metro Council and DLCDC. So did hundreds of other citizens from the tri-county region. SB 4 casts aside all that work. A promise for 30 to 50 years of certainty is being reduced to NINE years. That is why your words ring hollow to citizens: nowhere in SB 4 does it state that you won't go through the legislature again to handpick farmland for industry. And if you put that language in, the next legislature can ignore YOUR law and do their own land grab by passing their own, new law. You have created a slippery slope that leaves citizens with no faith in our representatives.

PASS SB 4 but REMOVE the Sections pertaining to land use and site selection (Sections 10 and 11)

Respectfully submitted,

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President, Save Helvetia

Recipient, Harold M. Hayes Citizen Involvement Award, Washington County