

March 13, 2023

Senator Sollman, Representative Bynum, and Members of the Joint Committee on Semiconductors.

I am Wesley Ward, Brooklyn Neighborhood, Portland; a member of the Climate and Environmental Justice Action Team of the Metropolitan Alliance for Common Good and a volunteer with the Brooklyn Action Corps (Neighborhood Association).

I write on my own behalf, as I have not had time to obtain formal approval of this communication. Please amend SB4 by removing Section 10. The understandable desire to attract semiconductor manufacturing to Oregon should not alter the time-tested, fair process of expanding urban growth boundaries. The Governor should not be given this additional power. Oregon's land use law has worked extraordinarily well in protecting highly productive farmland and our rural landscape. SB4 as written would set a bad precedent for further weakening of our land use laws whenever federal funding and a new potential growth opportunity seems attractive.

As the testimony from the Argay neighborhood in Portland indicates, there are sites already in the Portland UGB that may be available for workforce development facilities. In addition, there certainly are vacant or underused sites that already zoned properly for industrial facilities. City planners around Oregon should submit appropriate sites for systematic consideration in an open, transparent process.

I would also point out that owners whose land is selected for inclusion in an expanded UGB under this bill would be the beneficiaries of an immediate increase in value for their property and an undeserved windfall. Whatever process this committee sets up in a revised version of SB4 should guard against such windfalls.

Please think through this bill carefully and do not use this source of funding and potential economic growth to throw a wrench in Oregon's protections for rural farmland and the orderly process of dealing with proposed expansions of UGBs.

Respectfully,

Wesley Ward