



March 29, 2023

To: Lori Brocker, Secretary of the Senate

From: Senator Suzanne Weber

RE: Vote Explanation - SB 4

Given the uniqueness of the legislation, I felt it proper to file an explanation of my vote.

I wrestled with how I should vote on this legislation, but ultimately chose to vote no, knowing full well that it had the votes to pass. I do support the vast majority of the bill. However, I cannot support granting the governor such sweeping authority over land use.

The reality is that we seem to find ourselves with at least a handful of bills every session that seek to circumvent our land use system. And yet, when a developer requires action to begin work on a development, he or she gets no special treatment. When a business needs a variance to expand, they get no special treatment. When the creation and expansion of factories to accommodate the growth in semiconductor manufacturing leads to an increase of employment (a very good thing), where will these new employees live? Will this body give the governor the authority to quickly rezone land for residential use to accommodate development of homes for these new employees?

The time has come for a complete, ground-up revamping of Oregon's state land use system. Rather than rushing legislation to circumvent it, we should begin legislation to make it less onerous, less bureaucratic, and more supportive of residential development. Passing yearly piecemeal exceptions is not a logical or equitable way to develop. If we are to take the Governor at her word that housing is her number-one priority, we should assist her in this by remaking our land use laws to help her realize success in such a laudable goal, not passing one-off exceptions year after year.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Suzanne Weber". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Senator Suzanne Weber  
Oregon Senate District 16