



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

April 6, 2023

Timothy G. Sekerak

Chief Clerk of the House

State Capitol Building

Salem, OR 97301

RE: Vote Explanation – SB 4 B-Engrossed

Chief Clerk Sekerak,

Colleagues, the more I talk to my constituents over the years, the more I see agricultural workers spiral into dissatisfaction with state government. Nearly ten years ago the legislature passed what we called the Grand Bargain, which designated land in Washington County specified as rural and urban reserve. Now we are undermining that Grand Bargain, allowing farmland to be used for industrial purposes.

Oregon's agriculture industry is the most diverse in the nation, thanks to incredible land and soil producing 220 high-quality agricultural products grown across the state. Beaver State agriculture has a \$33.3 billion economic footprint representing 15.4% of Oregon's economy and over 20% of jobs.

To convert valuable agricultural land into paved industrial sites is to permanently destroy natural and working lands. This conversion prevents once fertile soil from sequestering carbon and supporting our food system forever. 40% of the 4.6 million acres of high-value farmland soils in Oregon are in the Willamette Valley. Around 3.4 million acres of high value soils are located outside urban growth boundaries and are zoned for agriculture.

Senate Bill 4 fails to consider whether the lands chosen for industrial sites are high value farmland soils. These properties are not simply undeveloped cheap land – they are a vital part of Oregon's economy. We desperately need our agricultural lands to ensure that we can sustainably feed and clothe our population. Several decades from now, we may not want or even need microchips. People will always

BOBBY LEVY
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
DISTRICT 58



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need food, and paving over farmland to create industrial sites destroys it for hundreds of years without the possibility of reversal.

Colleagues, I urge you to vote no on the current version of Senate Bill 4. As a member of the Joint Semiconductors Committee, it pains me to ask for your opposition after a difficult few months and hard work by the committee chairs and co-chairs. However, there is a better way forward that we need to consider, and our farmers cannot afford to wait and see how we will feed fellow Oregonians if agricultural land is unilaterally re-zoned for this project.

Best,
Rep. Bobby Levy, HD 58

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