



**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

April 6, 2023

Timothy G. Sekerak  
Chief Clerk of the House  
State Capitol Building  
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Vote Explanation – SB 4B

Chief Clerk Sekerak,

Oregon's statewide land use planning program was created in 1973 when the Legislative Assembly passed the Oregon Land Use Act. Under that program all cities and counties adopted comprehensive plans that meet mandatory state standards. These regulations have resulted in 50 years of success protecting farm and forest land, containing urban sprawl, and protecting natural resources. SB 4B completely undermines this act.

Section 10 of SB 4B gives the Governor a one-time FAST PASS around Oregon's 50-year land use laws. While supporters will say that Section 10 is a one-time deal, has restrictions and is ONLY to attract semiconductor businesses to Oregon, I would disagree.

There are no geographical location sideboards for the application of this new power given to the Governor. While it may seem obvious to most that the two 'super sites' greater than 500 acres will most likely be placed in proximity to existing semiconductor companies in the Silicon Forest area of Washington County, it is NOT a requirement. The parcels are only required to be within three miles of the urban growth boundary (UGB). Even if that is the case, there is some high value farmland in that area which produces food for Oregonians and provides jobs for families and their employees. Farmland that once it is paved over can never be reclaimed.

The six other sites allowed under Section 10 are required to be under 500 acres in size. These six sites are also not restricted by any geographic area AND could easily be 499 acre "semiconductor supply chain support campuses". These "support campuses" could be placed anywhere in the state. For comparison's sake, 500 acres is a large amount of land...a football field is approximately one acre, the Woodburn outlet mall is approximately 40 acres and Washington Park is 410 acres.

Additionally, large open parcels of land flank our major highway corridors. I-5, HWY 22, HWY 26 corridor, HWY 20, etc. Many of those parcels are within three miles of a UGB and would all be permissible per Section 10. These sprawling parcels of land are also some of the most valuable farmlands in the state. Those parcels in the Willamette Valley alone produce over \$2.3 billion in ag products annually. Again, farmland that is paved over can never be reclaimed.



Lastly, there is no guarantee that the federal government is going to invest and approve grants through the Oregon Business Development Department. The legislature is providing broad authority to the Governor with no assurance.

Protecting our farmland and ensuring we are fiscally responsible is of grave importance, and that is why I am opposing SB 4B.

Sincerely,

Anna Scharf  
State Representative – HD 23