



OREGON HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Representative Brian Stout  
House District 31

April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023

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

RE: SB 4-B Vote Explanation

Dear Chief Clerk Sekerak,

After weeks of public hearings, work sessions and many conversations with fellow law makers revolving around SB 4-B and the Semi-Conductors for America Act, two words come to mind today with this vote on what could prove to be unique to this state - *Reactionary vs. Visionary*.

Like so many of the bills that come before our legislators year after year, we stop and admit to a struggle in our decision making on any number of them because there is some good, a step in the right direction, or "a start" to fixing a problem. Still, we say they do not go far enough, and we are disappointed in the fact we could have done better. This bill in my mind is one of those quarters in the overall game.

What we are seeing today on SB 4-B is in my opinion a *reactionary* attempt in one specific private business sector to attract millions of federal dollars to Oregon. I do not wish to dismiss or in any way diminish the difficult process the committees were tasked with at the start of this session to craft something that "might" give our State a shot at something good. Time was short and the job was enormous. Still, I feel we have seen this approach play out before and there is no guarantee that any of these monies will achieve the desired lofty end results of the aspirational visions of those in the arena in this current legislation.

I, as the representative for House District 31, have the unique perspective of having cities and communities in our part of rural Washington County that are living in the shadows of the likes of Intel and other high-tech companies. While many are wishful for expansion and a piece of the pie there are just as many who are fearful for their way of life in their farm and agricultural businesses that are a rock throw away from being wiped out. In Columbia County, there are hundreds of correctly zoned and planned areas for light industrial and high-tech companies to locate to, yet attracting them to come has proven difficult over the years. It is a unique perspective, and this legislation will most likely play a role

– one that we just do not know how it will play out - and have no assurance of success or measure thereof.

My “no” vote today is a signal for us all to come together to craft *visionary* legislation at all levels that reflects the diverse nature of our communities. It is a signal that we need not end run our land use and planning system for one industry. It is a statement that we need to honor prior agreements and laws set in place to ensure stability to our businesses and farmers as opposed to giving the governor power to put in place piecemeal exceptions. This is to say that there are significant land use policies implicated for no reason and the broad increase in Executive authority is concerning. Furthermore, the economic impact for rural Oregon, my district, is both speculative and unclear at best. Ultimately it is the land use component of this bill that is the overriding factor for my vote today and this is in no way a reflection or statement that I do not support our business community or economic growth in this specific sector of Oregon’s economy.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian Stout", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Representative Brian Stout, HD 31