



from the

OFFICE OF REPRESENTATIVE ANNA SCHARF

For Immediate Release

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Representative Anna Scharf, 19 Bipartisan Legislators, Send Letter to Governor Kotek Highlighting Alternative Land Options to Farmland

Letter Comes in Response to The Semiconductor Bill - Senate Bill 4

SALEM, OR – Today, Representative Anna Scharf (R-Amity) and 19 legislators from both sides of the aisle sent a letter to Governor Kotek requesting her consideration of private, member only golf courses as available land before taking farmland out of production.

Senate Bill 4, the Semiconductor Bill, passed out of the House on Thursday, April 6th and was signed by Governor Kotek this afternoon. During debate on the House floor, several members raised concerns about Section 10 of the legislation which provides the Governor broad authority over its implementation.

“We raised concern that farmland has inadequate protections in the bill – frequently reminding our colleagues that once farmland is paved over, it is lost forever. We challenged the mindset that farmland is the only available option for the land needed in Senate Bill 4,” **wrote the lawmakers.**

In the letter, the lawmakers proposed two alternative suggestions to farmland, including Pumpkin Ridge Golf Course in North Plains and Reserve Vineyards and Golf Club in Aloha.

“If we are going to look at open spaces and available land for semiconductors, we believe we should consider all open spaces – not just farmland,” **wrote the lawmakers.** *“Large, open fields in the Willamette Valley are not purposeless. These fields are feeding our families, Oregonians, and the world. A member only golf course does not.”*

[Click here](#) to read the final letter and the full list of legislators in support.

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April 13, 2023

Governor Kotek,

Last week, the Oregon House of Representatives voted the Semiconductor Bill, Senate Bill 4, off the floor and sent it to your desk to be signed.

During floor debate, we raised questions about Section 10 of the legislation and the broad authority of its provisions. We raised concern that farmland has inadequate protections in the bill – frequently reminding our colleagues that once farmland is paved over, it is lost forever. We challenged the mindset that farmland is the only available option for the land needed in Senate Bill 4. And finally, we challenged the theory that farmland is less valuable than a 300-acre membership golf course.

Governor Kotek, as you wade through the process of looking for sites that are in the 500-acre or less category, there are several alternative suggestions that differ from taking farmland out of production:

- Pumpkin Ridge Golf Course in North Plains is 350-acres. It meets the 3-mile criteria and could easily be converted to a semiconductor support site, close to the Silicon Forrest. It is a member only course that caters to a few that can afford to join.
- The Reserve Vineyards and Golf Club in Aloha. Again, within the 3-mile parameter and close to many of the other smaller existing semiconductor supply chain companies. This 319-acre site charges \$79 a day to play golf and holds weddings and events that only members can host.

If we are going to look at open spaces and available land for semiconductors, we believe we should consider all open spaces – not just farmland.

Large, open fields in the Willamette Valley are not purposeless. These fields are feeding our families, Oregonians, and the world. A member only golf course does not.

Please take this into consideration as you move forward with Senate Bill 4 and the “available” land for development. Please consider protecting Oregon’s farmland and our farming families. Our hope is to avoid the destruction of our rapidly disappearing and precious world class topsoil here in Oregon.

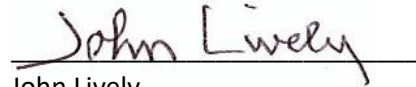
Sincerely,

Anna Scharf
State Representative – HD 23

Mark Gamba
State Representative – HD 41



Emily McIntire
State Representative – HD 56



John Lively
State Representative – HD 7



Jami Cate
State Representative – HD 11



Boomer Wright
State Representative – HD 9



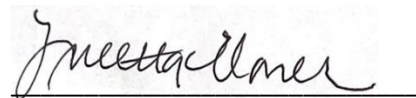
Maxine Dexter
State Representative – HD 33



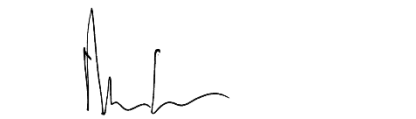
Bobby Levy
State Representative – HD 58



Jules Walters
State Representative – HD 37



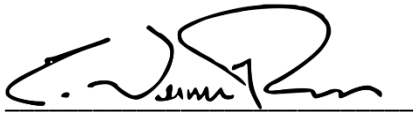
Lucetta Elmer
State Representative – HD 24



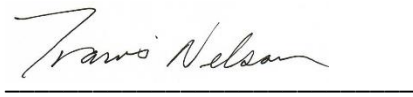
Mark Owens
State Representative – HD 60



Farrah Chaichi
State Representative – HD 35



E. Werner Reschke
State Representative – HD 55



Travis Nelson
State Representative – HD 44



Annessa Hartman
State Representative – HD 40



Hoa Nguyen
State Representative – HD 48



Thuy Tran
State Representative – HD 45



Lisa Reynolds
State Representative – HD 34



Christine Goodwin
State Representative – HD 4



James Hieb
State Representative – HD 51