



Governor Kotek  
Office of the Governor  
900 Court Street, Suite 255  
Salem, OR 97301

October 28, 2024

Dear Governor Kotek,

Westside Economic Alliance strongly supports your proposal to bring 373 acres into the urban growth boundary to better position Oregon to land one of the national semiconductor research and development centers.

As a nonprofit, member-based organization, WEA advocates for a vibrant economy on the Westside of the Portland metropolitan region. We work to create an economic landscape where our residents can both be part of a well-trained and well-paid workforce and live in thriving and healthy communities. We believe that this 373-acre expansion coincides well with our mission and providing strategic opportunity for Oregon to lead in the international semiconductor industry while strengthening the middle class in Oregon for generations to come.

The expansion of the urban growth boundary is vital for several reasons, here are just a few:

**Economic Growth:** It is time to move past the false notion that Oregonians can only either care about farm and forest OR economic opportunities that create middle class jobs. By positioning Oregon as a location for one of these semiconductor research centers, we open the door to well-paid jobs that will strengthen the middle class and increase tax revenue generation for our region and state. This expansion would benefit working families around the Portland metro area and across the entire state.

**Global Competitiveness:** As worldwide demand for semiconductors continues to rise, it is crucial that Oregon continues to position itself as a leader in this industry. Expanding the UGB will help attract further

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investment and talent, ensuring our state remains competitive both nationally and internationally.

**Land Use Considerations:** While some may express concerns about expanding the UGB, it is important to note that the land in question has been identified as suitable for development. Local landowners have already voiced their support for this expansion, and it aligns with state environmental standards and responsible growth practices.

Oregon is at a crossroads.

One path leads to growth opportunities that will reap multi-generational benefits in the form of good jobs and regional investments. The other path continues to take us toward a future where economic growth is stunted and Oregon continues to lose world class opportunities for innovation like the one before us today.

WEA appreciates the work of your office over the last many months to make this opportunity a reality. We hope this process will lead to a decision that is best for all Oregonians.

On behalf of our members, we thank you for your bold leadership throughout the last two legislative sessions, as well as through this expansion proposal.

Thank you for considering our testimony.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth Mazzara Myers  
Executive Director