

Submitter: Jane Stackhouse
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1586

Chair Boardman, Vice Chair McLane and members of the Committee.

I have two major concerns about this bill and urge you to not let it out of Committee.

First, Oregon is renowned for our land management and Urban Growth Boundary rules that were designed to preserve natural areas and farmland. This guarantees our natural resources and beauty for residents and visitors alike. To move 1700 acres from rural reserves when they were guaranteed to be rural through 2065 goes against solid land use planning and jeopardizes the family businesses that farm this land. This is prime agricultural land and should be preserved for that purpose. Local food is better. Local farmers are the backbone of our community.

Second, I fear our adoration of IT, Data Centers, and chip manufactures has led us and them to expect special treatment in the form of quick land use conversions and excessive tax breaks. This made sense when the industry was new and Oregon as just starting to attract these businesses. Now we need to consider the land and energy footprint of these operations and the number of jobs they create before we give up valuable land and offer long term tax breaks.

I have respect for the sponsors of this bill and usually agree with them politically but SB 1586 sets to stage to violate cherished Oregonian values incorporated into our land and energy policies. Please do not pass this bill onto the full Senate. Please either modify it to become an industrial land study and survey or let it die in committee and propose other legislation to use land that is already zoned for industrial use within the UGB.