

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

Chair Broadman, members of the committee,

My name is Adam Sunshine, and I live in Portland, OR. I work in local agriculture and food systems, supporting farmers and connecting families to locally grown food as a farmers market manager and previously as a farm worker in Washington County. I care deeply about responsible economic development, protecting working lands, and ensuring that major decisions affecting our communities are made through a transparent public process.

That is why I urge you to vote no on SB 1586.

First, this proposal lacks meaningful local public process. Decisions of this scale typically involve extensive public engagement, detailed analysis, and community consensus. None of that has happened here. Farmers and businesses have made long-term decisions based on the understanding this land would remain rural until 2065. Changing course now primarily benefits a small group of landowners while sidelining the broader community.

Second, the bill creates a pathway for expanded data center development that provides few jobs while consuming significant land, energy, and infrastructure. Hillsboro already has capacity for this type of growth within existing urban boundaries. Expanding onto farmland is unnecessary.

Third, we already have substantial industrial land available — including hundreds of acres near the proposed expansion area and thousands statewide. Oregon does not even maintain a comprehensive industrial lands inventory. Before converting irreplaceable farmland, we should fully understand and utilize the land we already have.

Fourth, this expansion is costly. Even Hillsboro's own projections suggest it could take decades to break even. At a time of budget constraints, it is not responsible to subsidize low-employment development that strains public infrastructure.

Finally, this land contains some of the best agricultural soil in the world — Class 1 and Class 2 soils that make up only a tiny share of the Willamette Valley. I work directly with farmers who depend on this land to grow food for our region. Once these soils are paved over, they are gone forever, and the loss of connected farmland threatens the long-term viability of agriculture in Washington County.

Oregon's land use system exists to protect farmland while directing growth where it makes sense. SB 1586 undermines that principle and sets a troubling precedent.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to vote no on SB 1586.

Thank you for your time and consideration.