

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

GThe wreetings,

I urge you to vote No on SB 1586. It is imperative that expansions of the Urban Growth Boundary, (UGB), around Hillsboro, or elsewhere, is not at the expense of agricultural activities in this area. Land already in the UGB needs to be used as a priority over any expansions and only when the local constituents are involved in decision making.

Any loop holes that allow data centers in particular to be built need to be identified and removed. At this time siting of data centers comes with many difficulties. Here are a few that come to mind. Why sacrifice fertile food growing areas or wildlife habitat to build them. The water needed for data centers means less resources for farmers and nearby communities. The overwhelming electricity consumed by data centers and who pays for it. Private company owners and their shareholders, may of them not Oregonians, benefit financially when they are not paying their fair share of the electricity they use or when they use tax exemptions to avert paying various taxes. While the losses of tax revenues, land to grow food, jobs that support farming activity and higher electricity bills are the realities for the community members.

There is a true monetary loss when land is defined as industrial versus farmland. In 2014, the legislature had the foresight to protect these lands until 2065. In doing so they gave the community and farmers confidence they needed to make investments and long term plans. Losing that kind of certainty has broad implications. You know choosing to be a farmer in the world today is a choice fewer and fewer are making, in part due to the many hurdles placed in their path.

Keep the legislative promise to protect these lands until 2065; Vote No on SB 1586.

Thanks you,  
Virginia