

Dear Chair Broadman, Vice-Chair McLane, and members of the committee:

My name is Nikita Vincent and I'm writing in strong opposition to **SB 1586**. This bill would put **1,700 acres of prime farmland** in Hillsboro at risk of industrial development.

The need to rezone this land has not been demonstrated. There are at least 10,000 acres of industrial lands already available inside Oregon's urban growth boundaries, including several hundred ready to develop in Hillsboro alone.

Why would we pave over our world-class soils and destroy local farm businesses, when we have not utilized the industrial lands already available in this region and beyond?

I am deeply concerned about the State Legislature making this irreversible, irresponsible and unjustified decision, for so many reasons.

- **Regarding public process:** This bill has bypassed public process on numerous concerning levels. It is inappropriate for the Legislature to undo a highly-negotiated decision that was made to designate this land as rural reserves until 2065. There was a commitment to keep these lands in agricultural production for at least that long, and there is no justification to reverse that commitment. It's also concerning that the amendment for this bill has not been posted before the public hearing, making it impossible for the public to fully and appropriately respond to the impacts of this legislation. The community DOES NOT WANT THIS. Farmers that rely on the land DO NOT WANT THIS. Lastly, it's concerning that this bill is before the Senate Finance and Revenue Committee, bypassing the policy committees that deal with land use, natural resources, and economic development.
- **Regarding Economic Development:** SB 1586 sets a scary precedent for our protected agricultural lands. If the State Legislature undoes the

certainty that rural reserve designation provides to surrounding farm businesses on the basis of highly speculative development interests, where will it stop? Oregon's agricultural industry is one of the largest industries in the state. Economic development, if it is to be a statewide effort, must account for all industries that support Oregon's economy. We cannot set this dangerous precedent to give one-off legislative favors to one industry in one county. That is not economic development. That is a corporate land grab designed as a "Jobs Act" to make it sound more appealing. We know that the Legislature is interested in economic development and we are too. But economic development must be a coordinated, statewide effort. Refusing to bring jobs or develop existing industrial lands outside of Washington County hurts our state's economy as a whole. There are at least 10,000 acres of ready-to-develop industrial lands inside of existing UGBs across the state. We don't have a statewide industrial lands inventory, but there is likely more land available. We cannot sacrifice the economic development of our 35 other counties by only supporting this one. Also to include, this particular land use reduces future generations the opportunity for economic sustainability. With this bill we are allowing a monopoly to be played out and further subjecting our future generations to confined agricultural economic viability.

- **Regarding our Agricultural Economy:** SB 1586 will fracture the agricultural economy in Washington County, making it harder for surrounding farmers to travel between fields that would become separated by industrial development. The impacts of removing this farmland will not just impact the farms within these boundaries. The neighboring agricultural industry will suffer, especially as county roads will be paved over, water resources will become scarce, and producer processing facilities that neighboring farmers rely on will be greatly impacted by the reduction in local business, further disrupting the local

agricultural supply chain. The cumulative impact on our agricultural economy is so much bigger than you'd expect.

Once you pave over farmland, you cannot get it back. A decision of this caliber should not be taken lightly. A short session is not an appropriate time to try to pass such a hugely controversial piece of legislation through.

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

It does not have any sideboards in place to fulfill its empty promise to create jobs, the land is not necessary, and the consequences are irreversible.

Thank you,
Nikita Vincent