

Submitter: Lorraine Murray

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1586

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

I am writing to you today as a concerned constituent to urge you to protect one of Oregon's most irreplaceable assets: our prime agricultural land. Currently, legislative proposals threaten to rezone 1,700 acres of world-class soil west of Hillsboro for industrial development—specifically for data center expansion.

Oregon possesses some of the most robust, high-value farmland found anywhere on the planet. To pave over these soils for short-term industrial gain would be more than a mistake; it would be an unspeakable loss for our state's future.

Why This Land Must Be Preserved:

**Irreplaceable Soil Quality:** The land in question features "prime" soils that are among the best on earth. Once these are covered in concrete and silicon, they are lost to humanity forever.

**Honoring Our Commitments:** These 1,700 acres were explicitly designated as Rural Reserves to be protected until 2065. Overriding this intergovernmental agreement undermines public trust and the integrity of our land-use system.

**Resource Strain:** Converting this land into a data center hub would place an immense strain on our local water supply and increase the risk of contamination, directly threatening the viability of the neighboring agricultural industry.

**Economic Resilience:** While the tech sector is vital to Oregon, it should not come at the expense of our agricultural foundation. Farming is a permanent, regenerative industry that sustains our local economy and environment.

We must honor the promise made to protect these lands for the next generation. I urge you to stand against any efforts to bypass existing protections and to keep these 1,700 acres in agricultural production where they belong.

Thank you for your time and for your dedication to preserving the best of Oregon.

Respectfully,  
Lorraine Murray