

To: Chair Anthony Broadman, Vice-Chair
Mike McLane, and Members of the
Committee

From: Shaine McMillan, Former 10-Year
Hillsboro Resident & Family Stakeholder

Date: February 11, 2026

Subject: **OPPOSITION to SB 1586** – The
Regional Economic and Thermal Impact of
Industrial Expansion

Personal Statement: "I lived in Hillsboro for
ten years, and my child still resides there. I
am submitting this testimony because I
have witnessed the transition of this valley
from a self-cooling agricultural gem into
an industrial furnace. As a resident of
Washington state, I am also a direct
stakeholder; every year, I purchase plants
from my local nurseries that were grown in
the Tualatin Valley. SB 1586 is a direct
threat to the regional economy and the
environment my family calls home."

The Hillsboro Furnace: A Case Study in Localized Thermal Collapse

1. The 10-Degree Delta: Data Centers vs. The Silicon Forest

The difference between Portland and Hillsboro is now a matter of artificial thermal output. During the June 2021 heat event, Portland hit 116°F, but localized sensors in Hillsboro's industrial corridors recorded 125°F.

- **Intel vs. "Fly-by-Night" Developers:** We must distinguish between responsible industry and speculative "water guzzlers." While Intel has invested millions in water recycling, SB 1586 paves the way for developers with no such commitment.
- **The 5-Million Gallon "Water Grab":** Newer data centers utilize evaporative

cooling that consumes 1 to 5 million gallons of potable water per day, venting it as steam while our crops wither.

- **The "Radiator" Effect:** Paving thousands of acres of volcanic soil with concrete creates a permanent "thermal canopy" that prevents the valley from cooling down at night.

2. Biological Shutdown: The Washington-Oregon Nursery Link

The Tualatin Valley is the nursery engine of the Northwest. Its collapse would be felt far beyond Oregon's borders:

- **Interstate Economic Reliance:** Nurseries in Washington state rely heavily on Oregon's production. I personally buy plants in Washington every year that originated in Tualatin Valley soil. When Hillsboro's "radiator effect" causes 125°F spikes, it destroys

the starter stock and inventory that Washington businesses—and consumers like me—depend on.

- **Ornamental Scorch:** Ornamental trees and shrubs are Oregon's #1 agricultural commodity. High heat causes irreversible root-zone heating and leaf scorch, threatening the supply chain for the entire Pacific Northwest.

3. Economic Fallout: Price Hikes and Product Reduction

The localized heat is a primary driver of a destabilizing local economy:

- **The 40% Hazelnut Spike:** Heat-driven yield loss has triggered massive price spikes, threatening Oregon's 99% global market dominance.
- **The Wine Crisis:** Pinot Noir is reaching a thermal breaking point, with case prices rising nearly 20% due to emergency cooling costs.

- **Consumer Impact:** Local yield losses have pushed grocery prices in the region **3.3% higher** than the national average.

4. The 1,700-Acre Land Grab (SB 1586)

SB 1586 seeks to annex 1,700 acres of protected Prime Farmland. This bill breaks the "Grand Bargain" of 2014, trading self-cooling soil for concrete boxes that consume millions of gallons of water while generating minimal jobs.

5. Conclusion

Hillsboro is a cautionary tale of a society prioritizing "processing power" over its physical foundation. Families are currently subsidizing their own destruction through record-high utility rates and inflated food costs. I urge you to **vote NO on SB 1586**.