

Submitter: Brie Buerkle
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'm writing in strong opposition to SB 1586. This bill would put 1,700 acres of prime farmland in Hillsboro, which is the best farmland in the US, at risk of development. It shocks and disgusts me that bills are being continuously introduced which put farm land at risk - this land provides not only food security to our region, but it provides opportunities to provide habitat for wild, native biological diversity which can't exist anywhere else thanks to Oregon's forest practices. I know you don't care about that, but keeping the few remaining species your generation hasn't yet managed to drive to extinction is key to continuing to live and farm in a functional ecosystem. There are at least

10,000 acres of industrial lands already available inside Oregon's urban growth boundaries, including several hundred that can be developed 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.

Once you pave over farmland, you cannot get it back. A short session is not an appropriate time to try to pass such a hugely controversial piece of legislation through, and shows the underhanded ways in which you are willing to destroy our food security.

Vote no on SB 1586.

The land is not necessary for industrial use and the consequences are irreversible. Do not let this pass.