

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

My name is Karl LeClair, a neighbor living within a half mile of the proposed expansion site and I vehemently oppose SB 1586.

I urge the legislative body to vote no on this measure. As an engaged member of the Hillsboro community and an active and caring neighbor I am appalled by the lack of community engagement surrounding this bill, especially the proposed action of expanding the Urban Growth Boundary and shirking of the land use laws associated with such a drastic and irreversible move.

Senator Janeen Sollman declares to represent her constituents and their interests, but has yet to meet with, spend time listening to, or gain an understanding of the concerns of the communities most impacted by this decision, has advocated for breaking the public land use laws outlined in the process to expand the Urban Growth Boundary, and has outright neglected to uphold the integrity of ethics required to hold the position as a representative of Washington County.

Both Janeen Sollman and the City of Hillsboro explicitly state in their respective goals and values that environmental sustainability and community engagement are core to their work, so please explain how this bill aligns with these goals.

The process followed so far is non-existent and challenges the already eroding public trust in our representatives and the business of every level of governmental organizations. There is a complete lack of justification for this unprecedented land grab. Multiple industrial spaces were recently constructed in the already expanded Urban Growth Boundary, which was also passed without due process, and currently sit vacant. So where is the need from the industrial sector? Furthermore, the existing available land within the Urban Growth Boundary should receive a thorough assessment, with an accompanying strategic plan developed to clearly lay out the development plan and create the context for approaching a potential expansion, with proper community engagement and public-facing process. We would be naive to think this land may remain undeveloped, but at the very least the community should have the appropriate process to provide contributing feedback to the plan and how this land may be developed.

The proposition of providing additional tax based incentives and breaks for the proposed industrial projects serves the interests of the large corporations and robs the community of the ability to offset the detrimental impact of these projects on the community. In a time when there is not enough funding for road and infrastructure

projects, for arts education in schools, for basic services provided by local municipalities, and with so many small, locally owned businesses closing and everyone struggling, why are we providing relief for those who need it least?

The companies that stand to benefit from this bill have no interest or desire to serve or interact with the local community in any way. The existing industrial players provide nothing for the local community by way of philanthropy and the planned use for data centers provide little to no growth in jobs, while destroying the land and usurping the vital resources the people of the community rely upon. In addition, there has been just concern for and attention paid to the recent activities of ICE, especially here in Hillsboro, and no one seems to want to discuss how these two issues are related. The most recent data center to be approved and currently under construction is a project funded by Black Rock, who operates Palantir, who conducts and stores illegal surveillance data to support ICE. These are not the neighbors we want to welcome to our neighborhood or community and they should certainly not have the red carpet rolled out for them by our representatives, who have committed to protecting us.

If the legislative body passes this bill it will serve as solidified evidence that our representatives no longer work on behalf of the people, but instead can be bought by those with deep pockets.