

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

Chair Broadman, members of the committee,

For the record, my name is Pamela Code and I urge you to vote no on SB 1586. I am a citizen of Hillsboro who cares about bringing agriculture land preservation to the center of Hillsboro's plans for its land-use future rather than a money mindset and corporate whims.

Where are the local stakeholders in this process? Where is the open-ended discussion of all the things the land could be used for? For many citizens, pride in their home matters more than "economic benefit" that never reaches them. I learned recently that the land was to remain rural until 2065. What happened to that? It seems obvious to me that the this expansion would make hundreds of millions of dollars while turning your heel on an agreement already made and without others' consent.

I have also recently learned that Hillsboro has plenty of land inside of its urban growth boundaries already. That raises the question of why sell this other land without an open-ended consideration of its other potential uses? You cannot blame residents for lifting an eyebrow and withdrawing their admiration for the parties involved a thoughtless move.

Lastly, I am submitting this testimony to you after having become informed that the bill may be amended between the opening of testimony and the hearing date and that this is exceptionally poor process. If the legislature wants to receive public input on legislation, it needs to let the public know what they are commenting on. But even if the bill is amended to not include a tax abatement, we understand that HB 4084 would extend the same tax abatement - potentially indefinitely. And even if the bill limits the acreage in Hillsboro's UGB to 373 and in the urban reserve to the remaining 1700 acres, Hillsboro has never proven a need for more land.

For these reasons and more, please vote no on SB 1586.

Pamela Code