

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

My name is Michael Blankenship and I'm writing in strong opposition to **SB 1586**. This bill would put **1,700 acres of prime farmland** in Hillsboro at risk of industrial development.

The need to rezone this land has not been demonstrated. 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, for so many reasons.

- This is not economic development. This is a corporate land grab designed as a “Jobs Act” to make it sound more appealing. Don’t take land that you did not earn with your own sweat and blood.
- The cumulative impact on our agricultural economy is so much bigger than you’d expect. Our state needs to uphold the values of Agriculture to the highest degree. Don’t cut corners.
- Any move to rezone these lands outside of their rural reserve designation is inappropriate. There’s unbuilt industrial land in Hillsboro alone, and more than 10,000 acres across the state.

Once you pave over farmland, you cannot get it back. A decision of this caliber should not be taken lightly. A short session is not an appropriate time to try to pass such a hugely controversial piece of legislation through.

For these reasons, I urge you to vote no on SB 1586.

It does not have any sideboards in place to fulfill its empty promise to create jobs, the land is not necessary, and the consequences are irreversible.

Thank you,

Michael Blankenship