

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

Dear legislators,

I am so so tired of all the attempts over the last several years to reallocate the best soils in the country to something other than growing food. It seems as though every year one or more bills are proposed to shift uses of farm land to uses that take that farm land out of production. This is yet another bill that does not protect that important resource in our state and wastes the time of the legislature on an issue that got carefully, publically, fairly legislated with the decisions of SB1011 which was supposed to prevent this kind of pressure and and give clarity for long term planning until 2065. Every single year this group of landowners finds someone to bring another bill for you to review to change things for their personal gain.

The underlying incentive for those pushing these uses is personal profit for a few folks who have spent the last 12 years looking for ways to get around the decisions of the rural and urban reserves process, which all three counties and Metro and the State of Oregon agreed would not be changed for 40 years after an extensive public process, careful land use forecasts and analysis, and extensive negotiations. This bill proposes to change a law that took 7 years to craft and agree to. Land owners of these same acres of land are yet again wasting your time trying to move their acres into a higher dollar value zoning which unfairly benefits a few people at the urban edge over everyone else that was zoned rural in the reserves decisions. You set a precedent for every other owner of farmland to lobby you to change their zoning also, bit by bit eroding the purpose of our laws and the values of our land use planning in Oregon. Where is the public process for this change? Didn't Washington County promise not to do this when the appeals court granted their request in 2014 to change their reserves? Do Metro and the other counties agree this is the best thing for our region? This land is not needed for more data centers or tech expansion, many sites exist across the metro area to meet the needs of industry. Taking more acres of soil away from food production hurts all of us. Acres consumed with these industrial uses consume water and electricity at a high rate that we as the rate payers in this area end up financing. As infrastructure is needed across the metro area to support the increase, additional pressure for land use and development of facilities also happens, and rate payers like me are seeing huge increases in our utility bills. Data centers in particular are an awful tradeoff, no jobs, huge buildings, huge water and electricity usage.

I would really like to stop needing to weigh in on these kinds of frivolous bills that hurt the public good, waste the time you should be spending on other issues during the short legislative session, and undermine our carefully crafted land use laws. Please

shut this down here and now, and send a message to this senator, to Hillsboro, and to this small group of landowners that you will not consider further attempts to change it before 2065.

Thank you for reading this.