

Submitter: James Babson

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 urge you to oppose SB 1586. It is one of the many bills under current consideration that would undermine our statewide land use planning program. There is land available within the current UGB for industrial development, so there is no need to pave over prime farmland.

Are we sure that semiconductor research is so valuable that it deserves special treatment like tax breaks and land rezones? The Hynix semiconductor plant in west Eugene, near where I live, was a complete fiasco. After being given huge property tax breaks and suspension of environmental regulations, the plant shut down after less than 10 years, leaving a huge empty facility that has yet to be repurposed after 17 years. What was supposed to be an economic boon to Lane County turned out to be an environmental catastrophe and an embarrassment to the local officials who championed it.

SB 1586 has extremely controversial and complex ramifications and should not be considered in the short session. Please vote NO on this bill.

Thank you for considering my comments.

James Babson  
Lane County