

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

Chair Broadman, Vice Chair McLane, and members of the committee,

My name is Lamby Erickson, and I'm a young farmer in the Portland Metro Area. I oppose SB 1586 because we need to maintain as much farmland as we can in the times we live in. I grew up in Oregon and attended Oregon State University, where I fell in love with agriculture and Oregon's incredibly special small farming community due to its ideal climate and rich soils. I have worked on many farms throughout the state and have gotten to see firsthand the positive impact that growing food has on our communities, both in the people it employs and the people it feeds. I've worked farmers markets for years and can say first-hand that the growing of local, nutrient-dense food is absolutely vital for the people of Oregon and the economy. As the climate changes and less land becomes viable due to natural disasters, farming is one of the few land-use practices we have that actually helps the climate, sequestering carbon and retaining water in the soils.

Farming is Oregon's second largest economic contributor and that cannot be overlooked. The passing of SB 1586 would harm our community by taking away invaluable land that is being used for agriculture, destroying soils that we can never get back. Not to mention the loss of jobs, which in industrial use would be much fewer. Hillsboro has enough data centers. For these reasons and more, I'm asking you to vote no on SB 1568. Thank you.