Submitter: Zoe Griffith

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1586

Chair Broadman, Vice-Chair McLane, and members of the Senate Committee on Finance and Revenue:

My name is Zoe Griffith and I am a beginner farmer from Benton County. I am taking a break from crop planning and seeding today to strongly oppose SB 1586. This is an unnecessary annexation of EFU zoned land that hurts farmers and our community, ignores the public process in land use matters, and disregards our high value soils in favor of enriching a few people with no guarantee that the benefits will extend to the rest of us.

After five years of training, farming, and gaining the expertise to manage farms and bring food to our communities, I can say that the most challenging part of farming in Oregon is navigating the sparse landscape of affordable farmland with water access, longterm security to develop necessary farming infrastucture, and proximity to city centers and markets. A bill like SB 1586 would exacerbate this scarcity, making it even harder for farmers to continue stewarding our rural land and feeding our communities. Please do not set that precedent.

Please allow us to keep working towards a thriving community food system by following Oregon's land use laws. Protect EFU land close to our urban centers. Without this land, small farmers would not be able to make all the CSAs, farmers markets, and farm stands that farmers and their communities rely on possible. We know there is other land within Hillsboro's UGB and the UGB of neighboring cities like Wilsonville that are better suited for data centers. This bill is absolutely not necessary, did not follow the correct processes to get community input, and will set a harmful precedent for land use in Oregon.

Do not sacrifice this agricultural land for a vague promise of tech investment. Do not set a precedent of ignoring community input and public process. Do not support SB 1586.

Thank you,

Zoe Griffith
Sagebrush to Sea
Philomath, OR