

Submitter: Ed Gorman

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1586

Opposition to Senate Bill 1586 and HB 4804

I am a 79 year old long-time Oregonian who has watched for decades prime agricultural land in Washington County be sacrificed for commercial and industrial growth. The most unconscionable of the losses, here and across the state, has been the land lost to the tech industry and specifically data centers. The enormous tax breaks given to these developments result in a poorer Oregon, no jobs created, and puts the burden of funding critical public programs inequitably and unfairly on the backs of the private taxpayers of Oregon.

Although that is an egregious situation, equally, if not more, problematic is the unnecessary loss of some of the finest agricultural soil in the world. The Tualatin and Willamette Valley soils are world class. Once that treasure is gone it will never be recovered. Let's not further damage the already abused planet by piggybacking on the follies of the current administration which is gutting EPA regulations and is making "clean coal and other fossil fuels" the backbone of its energy policy. My wife and I are multiyear members of a CSA farm in the area proposed for sacrifice. The many benefits of membership: abundant healthy, high-quality produce of an amazing variety; the all too absent in today's world community experience; and more, would be a tragedy felt for generations.

There are already 500 acres of undeveloped industrial land in Hillsboro and more around the state. Do not succumb to the avariciousness of the proponents of these bills whose only real interest is to enrich themselves at the cost of the private citizen. There has been little opportunity for public process for these bills. Do not expose the citizens of the surrounding communities to a US Supreme Court like "shadow docket". Stop the process now and if worthy for reconsideration come back in the next full session with an open and transparent process.