

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

Hillsboro already has hundreds of acres of industrial-zoned land available. This unnecessary bill would override the decades-long processes which have established the UGB and Urban and Rural Reserves, setting a terrible precedent, as well as eliminating farming on some of this state's, and this nation's, best farmland. In an era of climate disruption and economic stressors, it is folly to believe that we can continue to devastate Oregon's agricultural richness (literally paving over square miles of rich soil.) In addition, the language of the bill states that "high tech and advanced manufacturing" uses are to be attracted, but that "accessory" or "part of" uses can include data centers. Data centers employ few people yet put an enormous strain on water supplies and the electric grid. They are not a benefit to the community, and new ones should be banned from this region since we already have too many. The agricultural uses of these lands are far more important, more supportive of people and our economy, and more stable into the future. SB 1586 should be defeated at every step of the legislative process.

Thank you for considering this testimony.