

Submitter: William Evans

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1586

As a 5th generation farmer and citizen living in Washington County, Oregon, I strongly urge you to vote NO on SB1586. Living a short distance from the proposed 1,700 acres northwest of Hillsboro, I and many others are concerned that SB1586 would increase impacts of climate change, pollution in the air and water, and dramatically damage the agribusiness infrastructure in our state.

I am in strong OPPOSITION to SB1586 for the following reasons not listed:

- No local public process: There has been no transparent public process followed by the bill sponsor, Senator Janeen Sollman. Citizens hosted their own public meeting to bring people together in an effort to understand the bill and garner feedback. The public has not been provided with an analysis on what the net cost would be and no effort to develop a community consensus on what they think economic development is. None of that has happened here. Everyone expected the land to remain rural until 2065 and local farmers and businesses alike had been making decisions based on that fact. The only ones who want this expansion are the landowners inside the 1700 acres and their lobbyist who would make hundreds of millions of dollars from the sale of this land.
- Climate Change: Farmland needs to be protected and preserved to prevent adverse impacts of climate change as the crops raised work to sequester carbon pollution in the soil, thus providing clean air that is vital for a livable community. The air around Hillsboro industrial park where high-tech businesses are emitting toxins at an alarming rate are just east of the 1,700 acres. Reports show an increase in greenhouse gas emissions due to industry practices.
- Farmland: Taking this land irreparably harms another industry—agriculture. Agriculture depends on soil, and this land has some of the best in the world. Class 1 soils only make up about 2% of the soils in the Willamette River Basin and are the very best soils on earth. These are Class 1 and Class 2 soils and it is essential that we protect them for agricultural uses. Further, losing this large section of farmland that connects Washington county's farm country together could irreparably harm the entire industry.
- Data Centers: The bill has a loophole that would allow almost unlimited data centers as long as they're "attached" to another business. Data centers don't produce jobs or tax revenue. And Hillsboro has plenty of land for them if that's how the city grows.

For these reasons and so many more, please vote NO on SB1586 to protect this vital resource – farmland – for future generations.

Respectfully,

William Evans  
Cornelius, Washington County, Oregon