

Submitter: John Torrey  
On Behalf Of: Self  
Committee: Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1586

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

As an Oregonian, I am opposed to SB 1586.

I have a number of concerns about converting this many acres of farmland, in this important region, and how it could:

increase the cost of farmland

reduce access to top tier soils

impact carbon sequestration

threaten local food security

hurt the surrounding agricultural economy

harm nearby watersheds, wetland habitats, and tributaries

There is a lack of accountability for cities to attract and create good jobs in their UGBs. This should not come at the cost of paving over farmland. Hillsboro has already converted many acres of farmland for land intensive data centers. If they haven't brought good jobs over the last decade with the land they already have, why would we expect that to change with new land?

I am further concerned about this being disproportionately at the benefit of a couple property owners looking to sell their land as rezoned industrial land, rather than sell it to someone who wants to start or expand their farm operation.

It's not a good idea for Oregon to pit two key economic sectors (tech and agriculture) against each other.

Please ensure these lands stay as rural reserves until at least 2065, and pursue a more thoughtful approach to this issue.

Sincerely,  
John Torrey RN, BSN