

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

I have lived in Hillsboro for the past 17 years and in that time have watched rapid development of its rural zones. I realize that this isn't necessarily a bad thing: we've developed into one of the world's leading high-tech hubs which has brought intelligent and vibrant people from all over the world to call our city home.

Optimistically, I presume the goal of SB 1586 is to help reinforce this industry, which has recently been struggling.

However, expanding the tax breaks and tax credits of semiconductor and advanced manufacturing industries comes at the expense of Hillsboro's taxpayers and rural reserves, and only subsidizes the same corporations that have mismanaged themselves into massive layoffs at the expense of our entire community. My experience as a student of Biology, managing a local independent business, and as project manager at a local brewery all scream out in opposition to this proposal.

I received my degree at Pacific University in Biology and Bioinformatics. The rural land around our community is home to an enormous amount of biodiversity as well as some of the most agriculturally important land in the Pacific Northwest. Building out sprawling advanced manufacturing and data centers are terrible land use of the fertile, vital, and thriving wetlands and agricultural farmland we are home to. Hillsboro has already experienced rapid growth and increased development stress and expanding the UGB again for large industrial users risks undermining agricultural lands and community character.

For 12 years, I managed an independent optometric clinic in Hillsboro. As a manager of a local business, I watched thousands of my patients systematically laid off, month after month by the same companies who would benefit from SB 1586. This then had the knock-on effect of cratering the profitability of our business and many others around us, many of which went on to be devoured by private equity, and driving those revenues out of our community as well. The tax dollars of hillsboro's citizens—thousands of whom were laid off by these very companies—to only then subsidize their continued reckless development does not mean we will be adding jobs to our local economy. The numerous other buildouts certainly haven't worked out that way and have only helped to thrust our region into a recession.

Lastly, now as a project manager for a local brewery, I'm looking at this from the perspective of how thoroughly thought through this bill is—or isn't. through it is. SB 1586 moves forward without a clear revenue impact statement, leaving small businesses like mine uncertain about how expanded tax credits and industrial incentives might shift financial burdens onto the community. The bill itself notes that it

“may have revenue impact, but no statement has yet been issued”, which makes it difficult for businesses to plan responsibly in an already competitive and margin-tight environment. What about the effect on our watershed? Energy costs? Municipal services? All other taxpayer funded infrastructure that it would take advantage of? Without confident answers to these questions, this bill cannot be fairly considered.

SB 1586 has the interest of some of Hillsboro’s most prominent corporations in mind, but it those POTENTIAL benefits come at the GUARANTEED cost to:

- Hillsboro’s Agricultural Land
- Hillsboro’s Native Wildlife
- Hillsboro’s Taxpayers
 - Including the thousands who were laid off by the very mismanaged corporations who are asking for these changes
 - And all of Hillsboro’s non-tech sector businesses

Therefore, I must voice my strong opposition to SB1586.

Thank you for the care and consideration you put into these decisions. Your effort has made our city one of the best in the nation by numerous metrics, and we are all much better for it.

Many thanks,

James O’Saurus