

Hello Chair Broadman, Vice Chair McLane, and members of the committee. My name is Maleek McKenzie, I'm a former Intel R&D Engineer with a Smart Grid and Advanced Manufacturing background. I am a resident of Washington County writing in opposition to SB 1586. This past January the country saw over 100,000 jobs lost, an amount not seen since the housing market crash, with the tech sector being responsible for the second highest amount¹. After witnessing years of mass layoffs throughout the state, and seeing the impacts it has had on marginalized communities as well as friends I've made in the trades, the need for responsible economic development isn't lost on me.

That being said this bill presents a significant resource & opportunity cost that must be avoided. The productive agricultural lands we'll be losing provide a wealth of benefits including; food security, groundwater recharge, and carbon sequestration as part of a much needed climate change resilience strategy. Oregon's Dept of Energy greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory shows that our croplands have been slowly increasing their sequestration of GHG emissions and we should be doubling down on that, not paving it over². Furthermore, our agricultural industry makes up 13% of the state's gross product resulting in \$5 billion of agricultural production, as well as \$2.57 billion in exports according to a 2021 report from the Oregon State Board of Agriculture³. Further still, research from Oregon State University shows the industry employs well over 500,000 people, thus making the industry part of Oregon's identity, and one of the main

¹ <https://www.challengergray.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/CR126007123.pdf>

² <https://www.oregon.gov/energy/energy-oregon/Documents/2025-Land-Based-Net-Carbon-Inventory-Report.pdf>

³ <https://www.oregonfb.org/oregon-agriculture>

drivers of its economic output⁴. Additionally, a report from the USDA's National Agricultural Statistical Service shows that in 2023 Oregon was ranked top 10 in the nation for crop production in 10 out of 15 crop types, showing strong competitive positioning to other states in the union⁵.

The form of economic development put forth by SB 1586 does not meet the needs of the people of Oregon. We are not in need of manufacturing that leads us to blackouts in 3 to 5 years. Meanwhile job-producing industries like research and development are not land extensive – they can fit on our existing 10,000 acres of industrial land. Instead, we are in need of technologies that will support a just energy transition as Oregon's current electrical grid is incapable of supporting much more industrial capacity. Meta analysis performed by GridLab and Sylvan Energy Analytics shows we're heading towards a resource adequacy shortfall⁶. The world's manufacturing capacity of electrical infrastructure is unable to meet current and ongoing demand. An International Energy Agency (IEA) report from November of 2023 shows increasing grid development timelines out to 2050 for advanced economies and emerging markets⁷. This is corroborated by a February 2024 US DOE report showing that average lead time to purchase a distribution transformer of all voltage classes rose 443% between 2022 and 2024⁸. The strategy put forth by this legislature's passage of bills relating to microgrids, battery energy storage systems, grid enhancing technologies

⁴https://agsci.oregonstate.edu/sites/agscid7/files/main/about/oragecon_report_2021.pdf

⁵https://data.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Oregon/Publications/Annual_Statistical_Bulletin/2024/OR_ANN_2024.pdf

⁶ https://gridlab.org/portfolio-item/pnw_nearterm_winterra/

⁷ IEA (2023), Electricity Grids and Secure Energy Transitions, IEA, Paris
<https://www.iea.org/reports/electricity-grids-and-secure-energy-transitions>

⁸ <https://www.energy.gov/oe/articles/doe-and-industry-team-keep-lights-america>

(GETs), rooftop solar, and residential heat pump programs are all great. But even the greatest of strategies require strong logistical support that will allow goals set forth in the landmark HB 2021 Clean Energy Plan (CEP) to come to fruition.

The bill Oregon needs would ensure that incentivization is specifically focused on companies that are engaged in the manufacture and R&D of green energy technologies and those that support their usage. As well as foster high-quality, unionized employment opportunities that provide career growth and economic stability. It would ensure that the state of Oregon is given a better deal by only providing tax credits for technologies that are either; researched and developed, or installed here in the state. Incentivizing qualified companies to make Oregon a “preferred customer”, prioritizing delivery of products for installation in the state and reduced pricing. This would mitigate ratepayer impact as utilities in the state purchase these much needed grid technologies that would keep them compliant with HB 2021 Clean Energy Plan (CEP), provide technologies needed for HB 3336 (GETs), and reduce ratepayer impacts due to their lowered costs. The residential heat pump program will be supercharged through lower cost heat pumps alongside increased income tax revenue to provide higher funding levels.

And very importantly, such a bill would not require additional land. Hillsboro’s 1,100 acres of employment land to the east of the 1,700 acres that is being requested by SB 1586 houses just 30 acres of R&D facilities that provide many of the jobs in the area⁹. The 1,100 acres has 500 unbuilt acres remaining, and there are underutilized Intel

⁹https://www.opb.org/pdf/Statewide%20Industrial%20Land%20Survey%20Breakdown_1675899718106.pdf

campuses in the city. If Hillsboro wants to invest in meaningful economic development that produces high-paying, lasting jobs and income to the city and state, it does not need more land (and the associated infrastructure costs) to do so.

Oregon-specific research out of Cornell's Climate Jobs Institute released January of this year has fortunately provided us an alternative roadmap¹⁰. Providing 200K+ jobs by 2030 that wouldn't require the sacrifice of our world class farmland if we take the time to conduct a full and proper statewide industrial zoned land inventory, of which we already know there are 10,000 acres worth, which includes hundreds of acres in Hillsboro alone¹¹. Incentivizing green energy jobs will allow many to break the poverty cycle and build generational wealth while improving our environment and long-term economic health. These jobs would provide the state of Oregon with; a low carbon economy, community resilience, harmony with agricultural lands, as well as the environment & the ecosystems within. With thoughtful planning, we can provide jobs in a just, equitable manner that avoids repeating the mistakes of the early 20th century's "New Deal" era programs and that benefits all peoples of the great state of Oregon.

Moreover, supporting union workers must be a cornerstone of any responsible development plan. Union jobs offer living wages, strong benefits, job security, and pathways for skill development—foundations that uplift working families and build resilient communities across Oregon. SB 1586 fails to prioritize these quality jobs, risking replacement by non-union, lower-wage positions that neither support workers nor sustain our local economies. By doing so, we protect Oregon's workforce,

¹⁰ <https://www.ilr.cornell.edu/climate-jobs-institute/report-summary/bold-vision-climate-jobs-oregon>

¹¹ https://www.opb.org/pdf/Statewide%20Industrial%20Land%20Survey%20Breakdown_1675899718106.pdf

strengthen labor standards, and ensure new investments translate into lasting benefits for working families and our communities.