

Submitter: Anne Hamburg

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1586

I strongly urge a no vote on SB 1586.

The 1,700 acres that SB 1586 seeks to bring into Hillsboro's UGB are rural reserves that the legislature committed to protect from urbanization until at least 2065 in 2014. The rural reserve threatened by SB 1586 is critical to the overall health of the Tualatin River watershed. My understanding is there already is about 500 acres currently available, making this bill completely unnecessary.

The streams, riparian areas, and wetlands in this area hold surface water, offering flood resilience, slowing erosion, and filtering new water as it enters the watershed. It is essential we prioritize our watershed and community health over needless development. When rural reserves are converted to industrially zoned land as proposed in SB 1586, they are compacted, filled, and paved over with impermeable surfaces. This process permanently destroys wetlands and riparian areas, and often results in channelized or buried streams. This valuable wildlife habitat is gone forever.