

Submitter: Carlena White

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1586

In 2014 the legislature committed to protect our rural reserves from urbanization until 2065. If we keep taking our wetlands, what will be the outcome? It will lead to a loss of biodiversity and a decline in plant and animal populations.

Our wetlands hold surface water, which offers flood resistance, slowing the erosion of our lands and filtering rainwater as it enters the watershed.

We will lose wildlife habitats for dozens of fish, species, birds, amphibians and more.

If this bill passes, the land will be lost. It will be filled in, paved over with impermeable surfaces which destroys wetlands and often results in channelized or buried streams, resulting in valuable wildlife habitat that is gone forever.

Destruction of our wetlands leads to warmer water temperatures, which is harmful to our sensitive river systems, and to the salmon that returned to our rivers to spawn.

We are the caretakers of our lands and wildlife. It is our responsibility to ensure they continue to survive and thrive not just today but forever.