

I strongly oppose SB 1586, which seeks to expand the Urban Growth Boundary (UGB) in Hillsboro by bringing 1,700 acres of fertile farmland and critical rural reserves into the city's industrial zone.

This land was protected until at least 2065 for very important reasons. It is a vital part of the Tualatin River watershed, providing essential ecosystem services that cannot be replaced once lost. The streams, wetlands, and riparian areas here act as natural filters, holding surface water, reducing flood risk, slowing erosion, and maintaining water quality for wildlife and people alike.

Converting this land to industrial use for more data centers will destroy these fragile ecosystems. Data centers consume massive amounts of water daily and contribute harmful pollutants such as PFAs—forever chemicals that contaminate our waterways, threatening fish, birds, mammals, and the health of our communities.

The paving and filling of these rural reserves will permanently eliminate wildlife habitat and increase water temperatures in the Tualatin River, further endangering salmon and other sensitive species. This also places additional strain on Clean Water Services, which must meet strict temperature limits to protect our river system.

We must prioritize protecting farmland, wetlands, and our watershed over industrial expansion. SB 1586 would sacrifice irreplaceable natural resources for short-term industrial gain. I urge lawmakers to reject this bill and honor the commitment to preserve rural reserves for the health of our environment and future generations.