

Submitter: Amy BENSON

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1586

Dear Chair Broadman, Vice-Chair McLane, and members of the committee:

My name is Amy Benson and my husband and I own and operate Square Peg Farm in Forest Grove and we are members of the Oregon Farm Bureau.

I am writing in strong opposition to SB1586.

Why is this bill is before the Senate Finance and Revenue Committee, instead of the policy committees that deal with land use, natural resources, and economic development?

This bill would convert 1,700 acres of designated Rural Reserve farmland to industrial use. These 1,700 acres are protected due to a settlement agreement from an Oregon State Court of Appeals ruling and remand against Washington County. The need to rezone this land has not been demonstrated. There are at least 10,000 acres of industrial lands already available inside Oregon's urban growth boundaries, including several hundred that can be developed in Hillsboro alone.

This bill has bypassed public process, and the amendment for this bill has not been posted before the public hearing, making it impossible for the public to fully and appropriately respond to the impacts of this legislation.

These 1,700 acres were designated to be protected as Rural Reserves until 2065.

Converting Rural Reserves acreage to industrial use is bad policy, short sighted and illegal.

Sincerely,
Amy Benson
Square Peg Farm