

Submitter: Deborah Lockwood
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1586

February 15, 2026

Chair Broadman, Vice-Chair McLane and Members of the Finance and Revenue Committee,

I am writing in opposition to SB 1586 as a 30-year resident of the Hillsboro area and recent chair of the Washington County Planning Commission (2021-2025).

SB 1586 is a land use bill that avoids and undercuts Oregon's and Metro's land use process. It seeks to enlarge Hillsboro's UGB without the normal, publicly accessible fact-finding and analysis as to need and location. There has been scant opportunity to test assumptions or to consider the costs of a major land use decision.

At the center of SB 1586 is supplying and recategorizing a specific area of rural reserve land near Hillsboro. Yet as we know from recent experience, land does not create jobs.

The UGB expansion and industrial development of north Hillsboro, over the past 10 years, has resulted in many large buildings carpeting the area, but not in a large increase in employment, especially not the "family-wage" or well-paying jobs that the bill's sponsor refers to when talking about SB 1586.

The proximity of flat, rural acres to Hillsboro, along with the historical importance of now-struggling Intel, seem to be what make this proposal tempting. But again, land does not create jobs.

The rationale for SB 1586 is weak. Meanwhile, we have a well-articulated, time-tested land use system that is designed to serve all Oregonians and to avoid special treatment.

Let's follow that.

Sincerely,

Deborah Lockwood
Hillsboro, Oregon

