

Submitter: John Vandenberg
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1586
Subject: Opposition to SB 1586

Dear Chair Broadman, Vice Chair McLane, and Members of the Committee,

I live on acreage in unincorporated Washington County and value both a healthy environment and the need for a strong, durable economy. I write in opposition to SB 1586 and to briefly echo and incorporate the concerns set out in the February 13, 2026 testimony submitted by Tualatin Riverkeepers.

As detailed in that testimony, SB 1586 would bring approximately 1,700 acres of designated rural reserves—lands the Legislature committed to protect from urbanization until at least 2065—into Hillsboro's Urban Growth Boundary for industrial use. These lands include high-value farmland, streams, wetlands, and riparian areas essential to the health of the Tualatin River watershed, groundwater recharge, flood resilience, water quality, and wildlife habitat. Tualatin Riverkeepers explains that converting these areas to industrial use would permanently destroy wetlands and riparian areas, increase erosion and flooding, degrade water quality, and introduce runoff contaminants such as 6-PPDq, which is acutely toxic to protected coho salmon.

The testimony further notes that substantial industrial land already exists within current urban growth boundaries, that thousands of Washington County residents have repeatedly opposed inclusion of this same parcel, and that Hillsboro's recent UGB expansions have produced low-job, low-revenue development while increasing water and energy costs.

For these reasons, and those described more fully in the referenced Tualatin Riverkeepers testimony, I respectfully urge you to vote no on SB 1586.

Thank you for your service and for your time and consideration.

John D. Vandenberg