

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

Please OPPOSE SB 1586 – Protect our farm lands!

Elimination of farm land via tax breaks for corporations does little to help Oregonians. We need farmers and their businesses too!

For the sixth time, legislators are attempting to bring 1,700 acres of prime and high-value farmland into the Hillsboro urban growth boundary outside the established urban growth boundary expansion process and **without any public involvement**. The bill would also extend property tax exemptions in Enterprise Zones.

Why it matters: The targeted land comprises some of the best agricultural land in the world. Nearly 90% of the subject area involves prime farmland under normal management, the remainder being high-value farmland. Hillsboro received over 1,000 acres of industrial land in 2014, which was an ample 50-year supply. But the city has been burning through this land quickly with data center development and other commercial, recreation, and retail land uses. Data centers create few, relatively low-paying jobs. Additionally, the bill will extend tax breaks for these same corporations—companies that can easily afford to pay their fair share. The bill's focus on Hillsboro ignores the needs of other Oregon communities and lands currently available around the state.

Thank you for considering my point of view,

Wendy Gray

Cut Flower farmer

Hood River Valley