

Chair and Members of the Committee—

My name is Jennifer Francis. I am a native Oregonian, born and raised, and a resident of Clackamas County. I respectfully urge you to vote YES on SB 1586.

The Portland metro region is facing serious economic challenges. Commercial vacancy rates are at historic highs, with large portions of downtown office space remaining empty and property values significantly reduced from pre-2019 levels. This decline affects our local tax base, our schools, and the public services communities depend on.

We can all see that business confidence has weakened. Investment has slowed. Job growth has not kept pace with other major regions. Oregon needs momentum.

Washington County and the Hillsboro semiconductor corridor have long served as economic anchors for our state. Advanced manufacturing creates high-wage jobs, large-scale construction employment, supplier networks, and long-term local spending that strengthens the entire metro area. When those industries grow, the benefits extend well beyond county lines.

Other states are moving aggressively to attract semiconductor and supply chain expansion. If Oregon cannot provide certainty and timely, build-ready industrial land, those opportunities will go elsewhere.

SB 1586 provides a balanced approach — bounded industrial land, infrastructure coordination, environmental safeguards, and accountability — while allowing Oregon to compete for the kind of family-wage jobs our region urgently needs.

As a lifelong Oregonian, I want to see our state regain economic strength and confidence. This bill is an important step in that direction.

Please vote YES on SB 1586.

Jennifer Francis
Clackamas County