



February 15, 2026

RE: Opposition to SB 1586

Chair Broadman, Vice Chair McLane, Members of the Committee on Senate Committee on Finance and Revenue:

On behalf of the Oregon Seed Council, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in opposition to SB 1586.

The Oregon Seed Council is a trade organization that advocates for seed farmers, marketers, brokers, researchers, and others involved in the Oregon seed industry from when the seed is planted to when the seed ultimately makes it to the hands of consumers. Through our membership, the Oregon Seed Council represents approximately 1,300 grass, legume, and specialty seed growers in Oregon.

The Oregon Seed Council strongly opposes SB 1586, as it works outside of Oregon's carefully crafted land use system designed through Senate Bill 100, passed in 1963. This system was created for land use management balancing a number of interests in the state.

SB 1586 proposes to bring in around 1,700 acres of high-value farm land into Hillsboro's UGB, going around the land use process that this body so carefully created years ago.

This bill is framed as the "Oregon JOBS Act," but it appears to disregard the significant impact that Oregon agriculture plays in Oregon's economy.

In 2023, Oregon grass seed was ranked fourth in agricultural commodities in Oregon, with an estimated \$639.1 million in production value for the year.

Oregon is the leader in cool season grass seed production, earning the state the title "*Grass Seed Capital of the World*." In 2025, the Oregon Seed Council received the Oregon Consular Corps Global Trailblazer Award on behalf of the grass seed industry for our international impact in trade, and more specifically our impact in sports turf and recreational spaces. Oregon agriculture and the Oregon seed industry has a significant impact on our state's export market. The seed industry alone exports \$162,824,215 in grass, clover, and forage seeds to 56 countries annually.

The Willamette Valley is known for its diverse and fertile soils, and unique climate, which play a significant role in the region's agricultural and economic success.

Unfortunately, this bill seeks to bring a significant amount of Class 1 and 2 soils, which are the best soils on earth. Once these high value soils are paved over, that impact cannot be undone.

About 1,500 of the 1,700 acres proposed are actively being farmed, and the current crops include grass and clover seed, blueberries, hazelnuts, and wheat.

The impacts of removing this farmland will have a negative ripple impact on the neighboring agricultural industry, especially as county roads will be paved over, water resources will become



scarce, and producer processing facilities that neighboring farmers rely on will be greatly impacted by the reduction in local business. The trickle down effect on our agricultural economy needs to be considered.

Finally, there are several hundred acres of undeveloped industrial land in Hillsboro, ready to be developed. There is no justification to expand industrial lands in this region until all available lands have been utilized.

We ask that this committee not dismiss the important role the agricultural community plays in our food, fiber, landscape, and environment. Oregon farmers are stewards of the environment, and carefully produce precious resources not only for Oregonians, but nationwide and internationally from our crops and agriculture provides significant economic benefits to rural communities in our state.

The Oregon Seed Council urges the committee to reject SB 1586.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Megan Chuinard Graser".

Megan Chuinard Graser
Executive Director
Oregon Seed Council