

Dear Chair Broadman, vice chair McLane and members of the committee,

Please oppose SB 1586.

My wife and I are currently looking to buy a house in the Portland area and we are struggling with the lack of livable communities in the region. Green spaces are quickly getting replaced by highways, strip malls and giant boxy industrial locations that provide few jobs. The Portland metro region is sprawling out into adjacent farmlands converting fertile soil into short term economic growth. We need to be smarter about how we plan communities, putting the livability of our citizens before small economic returns. The recent uptick in development of data centers and Amazon distribution centers in the Hillsboro area have returned little to those who live there. These sites take up huge amounts of land and provide very few jobs and revenue to the community.

Worse yet, we have land that is already zoned for commercial and industrial use sitting vacant all over our metro region. It is much cheaper for a developer to build on newly zoned farmland than industrial areas with existing infrastructure, but the cost on our communities is also much higher. We need to implement smarter policies to encourage developers and businesses to use existing land for industrial development.

Please support our state's green spaces by voting no on SB 1586.

Sincerely,
Dylan Hinson
Portland, Oregon