

Submitter: Jessica Hall
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1586
Oppose SB 1586 – Protect Hillsboro’s Urban Growth Boundary

I am a resident of Hillsboro, Oregon, and I strongly oppose SB 1586.

There was a clear agreement that the Urban Growth Boundary would not be moved until 2064. Reversing that commitment undermines long-term planning and public trust. Residents, farmers, and landowners have relied on that agreement when making financial and life decisions.

Expanding the UGB to accommodate data centers would permanently remove valuable farmland and open space from agricultural use. Once that land is developed, it is lost forever. Washington County farmland is a critical part of our economy, environment, and identity.

Data centers are extremely resource-intensive. They require enormous amounts of electricity and water while producing relatively few permanent jobs compared to the land and infrastructure they consume. At the same time, these facilities often receive substantial tax abatements and incentives. That means local communities shoulder the infrastructure burden — including water systems, power grid upgrades, road improvements, and long-term maintenance — while the companies benefit from reduced tax obligations.

Residents should not be asked to subsidize large industrial operations through higher utility rates, increased infrastructure costs, or reduced public revenue.

This proposal also threatens nearby home values. Many residents purchased homes with the understanding that surrounding land was protected under the existing UGB agreement. Changing those rules without voter or affected landowner approval disregards community input and erodes confidence in our planning system.

If additional industrial development is necessary, it should occur within existing industrial land and infrastructure — not by breaking prior commitments and expanding into protected farmland decades ahead of schedule.

Please protect Oregon’s land use system, honor the 2064 agreement, and oppose SB 1586.

Jessica Hall
Hillsboro, Oregon