

Submitter: Morgan McMichael
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1586

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

As an Oregonian, I am opposed to SB 1586, which would harm farmland and forests, and thus the local economy, welfare of we the people, and health of our ecosystems.

We should not be converting more rural and wild land. We have been promised this wouldn't happen.

Doing so could:

Increase cost of farmland

Reduce access to rich soil

Impair carbon sequestration

Threaten local food security

Hurt our local agricultural economy

Harm nearby watersheds, wetland habitats, and tributaries

Endanger wildlife as their habitats are destroyed and pets and livestock as said wildlife relocated

Pollute our air

Increase traffic congestion

And much more

There is a lack of accountability for cities to attract and create good jobs in their UGBs. This should not come at the cost of paving over farmland. Hillsboro has already converted many acres of farmland for land intensive data centers. If they haven't brought good jobs over the last decade with the land they already have, why would we expect that to change with new land?

I am further concerned about this being disproportionately at the benefit of a couple property owners looking to sell their land as rezoned industrial land, rather than sell it to someone who wants to start or expand their farm operation.

It's not a good idea for Oregon to pit two key economic sectors (tech and agriculture) against each other.

Please ensure these lands stay as rural reserves until at least 2065, and pursue a more thoughtful approach to this issue.

Sincerely,
Morgan McMichael, Hillsboro resident