

Submitter: Russell Plaeger

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1586

Dear Members of the Committee,

I urge you to vote NO on SB 1596! High quality farmland is extremely important to the current and future generations of Oregonians. There is NO MORE FARMLAND being CREATED! The supply is finite and it would be very destructive to bring this area of farmland into the Hillsboro UGB. These lands are supposed to be protected until at least 2065.

The City of Hillsboro has not made good use of the industrial lands it already has available. They do NOT need additional land now and certainly not at the expense of productive farmland.

Converting these agricultural lands to industrial use will harm the Tualatin River Watershed by destroying wetlands that filter water, hold flood waters and provide high quality habitat for many aquatic and terrestrial species. Valuable wildlife habitat will be lost forever. Water temperature, in the river, is likely to increase as a result of the conversion to paved, impervious surfaces. That will be harmful to the survival of salmon populations in the watershed. Decreases in salmon populations is also detrimental to the coastal communities that depend on commercial and recreational salmon fishing.

The Tualatin River watershed is in better condition now than it was 30 years ago thanks to the tireless of countless individuals, local government, Clean Water Services, non-governmental organizations and many others who have worked together for the benefit of the river.

I spent 13 years working for a watershed council here in Oregon so I have firsthand experience with the benefits of watershed protection and the HARM of industrial development that alters and obliterates important habitat.

VOTE NO to ensure the well-being of the Tualatin River Watershed and its human and wild inhabitants.

Thank you,  
Russell Plaeger