

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

I am strongly opposed to the expansion of the Urban Growth Boundary for industrial interests. I have serious concerns about the environmental impact of important farmland and natural areas being converted to industrial use. The streams, riparian areas, and wetlands retain surface water, offer flood resilience, slow erosion, and filter new water as it enters the watershed. These areas also provide wildlife habitat for dozens of species of fish, birds, mammals, amphibians, reptiles, and insects.

When rural reserves are converted to industrially zoned land as proposed in SB 1586, they are compacted, filled, and paved over with impermeable surfaces. This process permanently destroys wetlands and riparian areas. This valuable wildlife habitat is gone forever.

In the Tualatin River watershed, the destruction of these areas also results in warmer water temperatures, which are particularly harmful to our sensitive river system and the salmon that return to our waters to reproduce. Warmer water not only damages our river system—it also increases the burden on our wastewater utility provider, Clean Water Services, which is responsible for monitoring and meeting the legally mandated Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for temperature in the Tualatin River.

We must not convert these lands for industrial use and commit ourselves to protecting our beautiful and fertile lands for future generations and to the benefit of all Oregonians.