

Submitter: Linda de Boer
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1586

February 15, 2026
To: Senate Committee on Finance and Revenue
RE: SB 1586 Oppose

Chair Broaman and Members of the Committee:

As a resident of rural Washington County just north of Hillsboro, I have had a bird's eye view of the irresponsible development that has taken place since 2014. At that time Hillsboro had been able to annex land that was added to the UGB under of the auspices of needing available new sites that were "shovel ready" for the high tech industry. Instead of the promised industry, we witnessed in 2016, the opening of Top Golf. We saw warehouses and their truck parking lots begin to take over the Brookwood area. Soon we witnessed the building of huge monoliths that we learned were data centers.

It is only logical to wonder what will happen this time when we are hearing about the need for "shovel ready" land for technology. Will the land again be squandered? There are no assurances in this bill to prevent these misuses from happening on an ongoing basis.

All we know for sure about the use of the land with the passage of the bill, is that is that it will spoil high value agricultural land. Once this land is paved over it cannot be retrieved. We are fortunate that so many of our past legislative leaders have indeed had the foresight to protect agricultural land. Such was the case when Rural Reserves were established in 2014.

Those of us who monitor the news at all are aware of the financial worries of our state. With such a burden on us all, it might be too easy to look for a quick fix. But please do not give up superior farm land for "shovel ready" requests. There are available acres nearby as well as elsewhere in Metro and across the state. Quick fix, short-lived spurts in the real estate and building industries are not sustainable. Many arguments that I have heard or read that support further Hillsboro annexation on the basis of economic prosperity seem to ignore that agriculture is an important part of the economy. Ongoing speculation that agricultural land might be turned into a "shovel ready" gold mine is not helpful, however.

Real long term prosperity will most likely come about when we respect enacted law,

citizen involvement and careful long term planning, as well as the land itself.

Please consider my testimony and that of so many caring and involved people and organizations, and reject this bill.

Sincerely,
Linda de Boer