

Submitter: Emily Waldron

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1586

Chair Broadman, members of the committee,

For the record, my name is Emily Waldron , and I urge you to vote no on SB 1586. I am a mother of 3 young children and I am a small woodland owner/farmer as the 3rd generation on my family's land (raising the 4th generation to live here). I am writing as a community member and someone whose life will be directly impacted if this bill passes and 1700 acres is brought into Hillsboro as industrial land. Further, I am gravely concerned by the precedent being set here with this bill and how it goes about circumnavigating local community involvement to give this land to developers and the tech industry.

There are many reasons to oppose this bill, and I am going to highlight a few. Firstly, there was absolutely no local public process. Usually, expansion decisions like this have multiple public meetings, hundreds of pages of analysis on what the net cost would be, and community consensus on what they think economic development is. None of that has happened here. The community has believed this land would remain rural until 2065 and local farmers and businesses alike had been making decisions based on that fact. The only ones who want this expansion are the landowners inside the 1700 acres and their lobbyist who would make hundreds of millions of dollars from the sale of this land. Despite what you may have been told by these landowners and Senator Sollman, there ARE farmers willing to grow important crops on this land. It's because of speculation and "future industrial zoning" terms on "for sale signs" that farmers desiring to grow needed crops like food, seeds, and timber for lumber harvests cannot afford to purchase this land to farm.

I have neighbors whose children are searching for property under \$5 million to farm in the area and it's impossible to find because of this speculation and the current owners' unwillingness to sell because they would rather see a larger payday. I myself am a woodland owner for selective timber harvests, and it's like I have two heads when I tell people I live in Washington County and have a forest because it is so uncommon here. It shouldn't be. We once had actual trees where the "silicon forest" has taken over, and the fake forest keeps expanding at the cost of the real one. With regard to farming, this area has some of the top 2% of soil in the world. That is a resource worth safeguarding, especially in uncertain times environmentally and politically. It is possible to grow all of our food locally and we need to preserve that soil health. Once it's paved over it is gone.

The third reason to oppose this bill would be data centers. There is NOTHING in the text of this bill that would prevent data centers from coming in as long as they are attached to something else, even if it's another data center or a warehouse. As countless studies over the last 36 years show, data centers are NOT assets to the

community. They do NOT provide jobs. They DO make places hotter, waste electricity, drain water supplies, and take up valuable resources. They do NOT provide economic growth in our local communities, and would lead to pulling resources and money away from our area. The farms replaced by these data centers (or any other industrial development there) pay MORE in taxes towards our schools, fire departments, and community resources. Even documents from the city of Hillsboro show that it will be 34 years before this development would break even, and that's not even including the toll from the loss of property taxes in the community because of the "economic enterprise zone".

Lastly, I am submitting this testimony to you with the understanding that the bill may be amended between the opening of testimony and the hearing date. This is exceptionally poor process and done in ill-faith to our community. Yet even if the bill is amended, this is a bad bill that is rotten at its core.

For these reasons and more, please vote no on SB 1586.

Kindly,

Emily Waldron