

Monday, February 16, 2026

RE: Opposition to Senate Bill 1586

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

My name's Nellie McAdams, Executive Director of Oregon Agricultural Trust.

We oppose SB 1586 in part because the amendment that we are speaking to only dropped last night. This as well as the lack of public hearings locally and at Metro have excluded Hillsboro residents and Oregon taxpayers from a decision that greatly affects them.

We also oppose the bill because it's based on misconceptions about how the land is used for Oregon's second largest industry - agriculture.

First, the land **is** actively farmed on 1,500 of the 1,700 acres. Most of it is in wheat and grass seed, which might look empty in winter, but that's far from true. Grass seed generates over \$1 billion in total annual economic activity. Even without irrigation, farmland of this caliber can grow high-value crops. My nearby farm is unirrigated and grows hazelnuts, grass seed, winter wheat, and on much worse soils.

While some landowners support this bill, much of the land is leased to farmers who oppose it. In fact, nearby farmers would buy this land to farm but can't because it's being held on a speculation that this bill keeps alive. When the same 1,700 acres has been requested by 6 bills in 9 years, each time for a different reason, and none of them justified, **the legislature must question the underlying soundness of the bill.** It's not about businesses needing the land, it's about a few people wanting to sell it for a massive profit. And it's not the Legislature's job to help them get rich.

What's at stake is not only our farmland, but our tax dollars. The state shouldn't waste limited resources providing costly infrastructure and services to unneeded greenfields.

Land use decisions require detailed considerations of needs and costs. Normally that is hundreds of pages of research and evaluation that is vetted with the public, but all we have here is a 6-pager that estimates the expansion might break even in 35 years, if at all.

Moreover, there is no demonstration of need. The Semiconductor Task Force report that proponents point to that selected this site was for semiconductor manufacturing, not advanced manufacturing. Those are two separate industrial sectors with different site specifications. More importantly, the Semiconductor Committee discovered during the 2023 session that this task force's report was incomplete. It had overlooked 10,000 acres of available, unbuilt industrial land. That includes Hillsboro's 500 unbuilt acres right next to this property.

Land is not the limiting factor for advanced manufacturing - the city has chosen to **use only 30 acres** of its 1,100 acre supply on high tech, while using hundreds of these acres for data centers. What would go on the 1700 acres is likely data centers - the amended bill still allows an unlimited number and acreage of data centers as long as they're accessory to another use.



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For these reasons and more, I urge you to reject this bill.

Thank you for your service,

Nellie McAdams