

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

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

My name is Andre Gawlista and I am a concerned citizen in Washington county. I oppose SB 1586 and any amendments that would still expand the UGB regardless of acreage for several reasons.

1. It undermines the statewide land use planning program. This 50 year promise is supposed to give farmers and businesses with agricultural sector time to build without the looming threat of land use changes that would undermine their investments and progress. Anyone supporting this bill is not a friend to farmers.
2. We have yet to see any benefit to the people of Hillsboro or Washington county promised by recent industrial development. And in fact, these companies are laying people off. If existing development can't maintain existing jobs, let's not destroy prime farm land, adding to the overall losses for Oregonians.
3. No consideration has been given to the environmental impacts. Once this land is paved over and polluted it takes decades or more to undo the damage.
4. The decisions and manner of decision making around some of the amendments is shady at best-excluding the public and completely off the record. It begs the question of what about those amendments-and ultimately this bill-is so unsavory that legislators and metro committee members feel the need to hide it?
5. The only people who stand to benefit are a small number of landowners. Legislation should not be passed solely to line the pockets of a few already wealthy individuals, while simultaneously harming the majority, an entire industry, and the environment.

Thank you for your time.