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Council President Lynn Peterson

February 13, 2026

Dear Chair Broadman, Vice-Chair McLane, and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of Metro, I write in support of the compromise reflected in the amended version of SB 1586.

Metro manages the urban growth boundary (UGB) for the Portland region and works to balance urban expansion with protection of farms and natural areas. While we do not support the original proposal to legislatively move 1,700 acres of rural reserves directly into the UGB, we recognize that today's economic conditions require coordinated action to attract jobs and strengthen regional prosperity.

The amended bill strikes a better balance. It reduces the acreage brought directly into the UGB to 373 acres and redesignates the remaining 1,400 acres as urban reserves. Those acres will go through Metro's established growth management process before any future UGB action. This ensures decisions are made within a regional framework that balances economic development and land use interests and not through state legislative action.

In addition, Hillsboro is uniquely positioned to respond quickly to attract large manufacturing employers. Its proximity to major employers, infrastructure, and the airport makes it one of the best places in the region for developing employment land at the scale, speed and purpose being discussed.

Like any compromise, this bill is imperfect. Metro continues to want stronger assurances that the 373 acres added to the UGB will deliver the high-quality, family-wage jobs our region needs. Too often, industrial land in our region is diverted to uses that do not advance our shared economic goals; expansion for the purpose of stand-alone data centers is antithetical to our values. We are committed to partnering with Hillsboro to help ensure these lands fulfill their intended purpose.

Given the diversity of jurisdictions and interests across the Metro region, UGB decisions require robust analysis and community engagement to maintain trust. That is why Metro supports designating most of this land as urban reserve rather than immediately expanding the UGB. If additional land is needed, it should go through a planning and community engagement process that balances regional interests and identifies how, where, and when expansion best serves shared values.

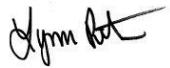
Looking ahead, Metro also supports a discussion about targeted refinements to Oregon's land use system that better respond to current economic realities. If we want to attract key industrial employers, we must be able to provide sites that meet their needs while maintaining the integrity of our land use framework.

Finally, land supply alone does not create jobs. Metro's experience shows that infrastructure readiness is often the greatest barrier to industrial development. In addition to planning for

future expansion, we must invest in preparing lands already inside the UGB for development to avoid economic and livability consequences.

Meeting Oregonians' needs for housing, jobs, parks and open spaces, and farmland requires careful balance. The compromise in this bill balances the need for immediate action with the imperative for a thoughtful region-wide jobs strategy. Metro stands ready to continue leading thoughtful conversations about the region's future growth and prosperity.

Sincerely,



Lynn Peterson
Metro Council President