



February 16, 2026

RE: Opposition to SB 1586

Chair Broadman, Vice Chair McLane, Members of the Senate Committee on Finance and Revenue, for the record, I am Charles Ortiz, representing the Oregon Seed Council as a past president and current Board member. Today, I am here to state Oregon Seed Council's opposition to SB 1586.

The Oregon Seed Council is a trade organization that advocates for seed farmers, marketers, brokers, researchers, and others involved in the Oregon seed industry from planting to when seeds make it to the hands of consumers. Through our membership, the Oregon Seed Council represents approximately 1,300 grass, legume, vegetable and specialty seed producers in Oregon.

We strongly oppose SB 1586.

Oregon has a carefully crafted land use system designed through Senate Bill 100, passed in 1963. This system was created for land use management balancing interests in the state. It was also crafted to prevent haphazard and unbalanced actions such as this bill. SB 1586 proposes to unnecessarily add around 1,700 acres of high-value farmland into Hillsboro's UGB, intentionally circumventing Oregon's land use process. There are already several hundred acres of undeveloped industrial land in Hillsboro, ready to be developed. There is no rational justification to expand industrial lands in this region until all available lands have been utilized.

This bill is framed as the "Oregon JOBS Act," but it disregards the significant impact that Oregon agriculture plays in Oregon's economy. This bill proposes to create jobs by taking away existing jobs. About 1,500 of the 1,700 acres proposed are actively being farmed, and the current crops include grass and clover seed, blueberries, hazelnuts, and wheat.

In 2023, Oregon grass seed was ranked fourth in agricultural commodities in Oregon, with an estimated \$639.1 million in production value for the year. Grass seed is more than just sports turf and recreational spaces, it is also forage and fiber production, erosion control, cover crops, conservation habitat, and carbon sequestration.

Oregon is the leader in cool season grass seed production, earning the state the title "Grass Seed Capital of the World." In 2025, the Oregon Seed Council received the Oregon Consular Corps Global Trailblazer Award on behalf of the grass seed industry for our international impact in trade. Oregon agriculture and the Oregon seed industry has a significant impact on our state's export market. The seed industry alone exports \$162,824,215 in grass, clover, and forage seeds to 56 countries annually.

Here in the Willamette Valley, the region is known for its diverse and fertile soils, and unique climate, which play a significant role in the region's agricultural and economic success. Unfortunately, this bill seeks to pave over a significant amount of Class 1 and 2 soils, which are the best soils on earth. Once these high value soils are paved over, that impact cannot be undone.



Removing this farmland will have a rippling negative impact on the neighboring working lands and imperil producer processing facilities that neighboring farmers rely on; all greatly impacted by the reduction in local business.

We ask that this committee not dismiss the important role the agricultural community plays in our food, fiber, landscape, and environment. Oregon farmers are stewards of the environment, and carefully produce precious resources not only for Oregonians, but nationwide and internationally. Our crops and agriculture provide significant economic benefits to rural and urban communities alike in our state.

That's why we have a time-tested land use process to ensure that the greater good of all Oregonians is served.

The Oregon Seed Council urges the committee to reject SB 1586.