

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

Chair Broadman, Vice-Chair McLane, and members of the Senate Committee on Finance and Revenue:

My name is Meredith Bell and I am a grape farmer and winemakers, whose vineyard is in Oregon City. I am writing to you today to strongly oppose SB 1586. This is an unnecessary annexation of EFU zoned land that hurts farmers, sets a bad precedent for ignoring the public process in land use matters, and disregards our high value soils in favor of enriching a few.

This is important to me because having small farms close to city centers means that people in urban settings can have easy access to farms. For me, it means that I can live in Portland, and still farm, with a reasonable commute. It also means that farmers have easier access to the people that their farms feed and serve.

Oregon has a thriving community food system because our land use laws protect EFU land close to our urban centers. Without this land, small farmers would not be able to make all the CSAs, farmers markets, and farm stands that Oregonian's love possible. SB 1586 is not necessary, there is other land within Hillsboro's UGB and the UGB of neighboring cities like Wilsonville that are better suited.

Do not sacrifice this agricultural land for a vague promise of tech investment. Do not set a precedent of ignoring community input and public process. Do not support SB 1586.

Thank you,

Meredith Bell  
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Oregon City