

Submitter: Kenneth Hale

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,

I'm concerned about, and opposed to, SB 1586.

Converting 1,700 acres of farmland in this fertile region could have significant negative effects, including: increasing the cost of nearby farmland, reducing access to top tier soils, threatening local food security, and hurting the surrounding agricultural economy.

Pitting two key economic sectors — tech and agriculture — against each other is unwise.

I have worked in resource conservation for in Oregon for over 40 years with USDA NRCS, local conservation districts and now volunteer with Friends of Polk County and Luckiamute Domestic Water Coop. I have traveled around the planet and watch land use issues in other places. What we have crafted here in Oregon with our land use planning process is rare and it works. Let us protect this rare combination of soils from being developed for commercial development.

I am further concerned about how this industrialization could harm this watershed and impact carbon sequestration.

Please ensure these lands stay as rural reserves until at least 2065.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Kenneth W. Hale