

Submitter: Evelyn Lee

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 Evelyn Lee and I am a member of the Benton County Planning Commission from Monroe, Oregon. I strongly oppose SB 1586 for the following reasons:

1. This is not the time in the history of our democracy for this state government to usurp established goals and values to favor corporate interests that profit at the expense of local citizens. Corporate pressure on Oregon's land use laws is nothing new. Our land use laws were created for just such a moment as this: to remind us of the values we hold dear; to protect our resources for their highest and best use.
2. The impact of this law would reverberate through other planning efforts throughout the state and cause unending churn and chaos. Oregonians have a well-established process, well-established values, well-established goals that give local jurisdictions decision-making power. This bill would provide one more blow to those who favor adherence to orderly, inclusive processes that preserve local community-based decisions. This bill would provide one more example of the destruction of local community-based institutions.
3. The present corporate technology crazes will be short lived, driven by voracious profit motives that benefit the few instead of the many. Oregonians value our communities, our resources, and our ability to think and act for the benefit of long-term contingencies.
4. Farmland such as this is a rare and precious commodity and we forget that at our peril, or the peril of our children and grandchildren. Farmland soils are also delicate. Once build-upon, the soil is destroyed forever.
5. Agricultural communities are likewise rare and precious. They represent an enormous bank of independent, skillful, capable, dedicated, and hard-working families that create a community network of mutual support with local knowledge and a deep link to their land.
6. Ag land and ag skills are disappearing at an accelerating pace. Do Oregonians want to feed ourselves in the future? Do we want to permanently destroy the soil upon which that depends? Do we want to destroy the rich resource of skills, independence, local knowledge, and community values represented by those in the agricultural communities impacted by this bill?
7. This is not the time for the state of Oregon to ignore public commitments such as the very recent "grand bargain" that was intended to compromise land use for the next two generations in Hillsboro. That land remains available. This case has been described as democracy and the public versus a corporate land grab. That

description seems apt. At this moment in history, does Oregon want to add one more nail in the coffin of democracy to favor some nebulous technology and corporate profit?

The City of Hillsboro and the state of Oregon are unable, as required, to demonstrate the need to expand the UGB.

Do not support SB 1586.

Thank you,

Evelyn Lee

Monroe, Oregon