

Chair Broadman, Vice Chair McLane, and members of the committee,

My name is Peter Schuyler and I'm the President and Managing Partner of InGear Public Relations, as well a company member of FUSE Theatre Ensemble. As a small business owner, outdoor enthusiast, an artist in the Portland Metro area, I vehemently oppose SB 1586 and any amendments that would still expand the Hillsboro UGB, regardless of acreage, because it undermines the statewide land use planning program, threatens the agricultural economy in Washington County, and the knock on effect it will have across northwestern Oregon. It further fails to consider industrial land available within urban growth boundaries across the state.

These rural reserves in Washington County have a long history, but in 2014 the legislature made a commitment that these 1,700 acres would be protected until at least 2065. This 50-year promise is to provide landowners with the confidence they need to invest in their farming operation because they don't have to worry about their land being rezoned and urbanized right after investing their time and money into it. Instead, nearly every year legislature has proposed bringing this land into Hillsboro's UGB, for one use or another. This does not provide confidence but rather encourages speculative landholding that keeps this high-value farmland out of the hands of people who really do want to farm.

SB 1586 will fracture the agricultural economy in Washington County, causing grievous harm to working class Oregonians all over the state. It will make it harder for farmers to travel between fields that would become separated by this rezoned land. It will continue to shut down tractor stores, mechanics, and seed cleaners, further disrupting the agricultural supply chain. It will drive up farmland costs and make it harder for new farmers to access land and existing farmers to expand their operations. Agriculture is the second largest economic industry in the state and is absolutely dependent on access to top tier soils. Industrial development does not need to be located on the world's best soil, and data centers are proven polluters that offer little to a community except greater pollution, poor job growth and a race the bottom to replace human labor with AI labor.

Lastly, SB 1586 is completely unnecessary, as it fails to consider geographic equity and the thousands of acres of industrial land already available within UGBs across the state. Oregon needs a statewide approach to economic development, so all Oregonians can thrive. How will someone in Southern or Central Oregon benefit from the state doubling down on investments in Hillsboro? Oregon also needs a statewide industrial lands inventory, so we can all operate off the same information about where there is available land and how much there is, rather than relying on an incomplete report.

For these reasons and many more, I ask that you vote no on SB 1586 and work to rebuild trust with the community. Thank you.