

To: Senate Committee on Finance and Revenue

From: Blayne Soleymani-Pearson

Re: Testimony in Opposition to Senate Bill 1586

Date: February 16, 2026

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to strongly oppose Senate Bill 1586. Specifically, I oppose sections 19-20 that make changes to protected farmlands and allow for industrial zoning. Living and looking for housing around Hillsboro and Beaverton makes it obvious that our community needs thoughtful development, not unchecked industrial sprawl that puts corporate interests over working people.

My first major concern is that this bill breaks the public's trust by taking land that was protected in 2014. That land was part of a long-term agreement and wasn't supposed to be touched for another 38 years. SB 1586 just pulls these reserves straight into the urban growth boundary without designating any new protected land to make up for the loss.

There is also a massive loophole for data centers. The legislation claims to prohibit them in these newly zoned areas, but it explicitly allows them if they are built as an accessory to or part of a manufacturing facility. This is a huge oversight. The bill provides zero protections for the local area if a data center gets built. Across the country, communities are seeing the disastrous impacts of data centers. They strain local water supplies, burden the power grid, and pass the costs of infrastructure upgrades straight to residents' utility bills. On top of that, the constant noise from server cooling fans and backup generators ruins the quality of life for nearby neighborhoods.

Finally, adding more rural reserves to Metro's area for high-tech and advanced manufacturing will not help the working class in the long run. Washington County is already incredibly spread out. Building massive new industrial sites without simultaneous plans for housing and transportation will just make our sprawl worse. This legislation does nothing to solve the affordability crisis we are living in. It only serves corporate interests while leaving everyday residents to deal with the traffic, lack of housing, and higher cost of living.

Please vote no on SB 1586 and protect our community's land and working families.

Thank you for your time,

J. Blayne Soleymani-Pearson

Washington County Resident - 97225