

Submitter: Thomas Stibolt

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1586

Normally, decisions like this have multiple public meetings, hundreds of pages of analysis on what the net cost would be, and community consensus on what they think economic development is. None of that has happened here. Everyone expected the land to remain rural until 2065 and local farmers and businesses alike had been making decisions based on that fact.

We have plenty of land inside of our urban growth boundaries already for industries including high-tech. There's over 10,000 acres of industrial land around the state and 500 just next door to this land in Hillsboro. Hillsboro has had 15 years to attract high-job industries but instead is filling it rapidly with data centers and warehouses.

Taking this land irreparably harms another industry – agriculture. Agriculture depends on soil, and this land has some of the best in the world. Class 1 soils only make up about 2% of the soils in the Willamette River Basin and are the very best soils on earth. These are Class 1 and Class 2 soils and it is essential that we protect them for agricultural uses.

I am submitting this testimony to you with the understanding that the bill may be amended between the opening of testimony and the hearing date. This is exceptionally poor process. If the legislature wants to receive public input on legislation, it needs to let the public know what they are commenting on.