

Submitter: Nathan Moomaw
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:

I'm Nathan Moomaw, a co-owner of Moomaw Family farm in Oregon City, that collaborates with 5 other family farms in the Willamette Valley region to provide pasture-raised meats to folks all over the Portland metro area. I strongly oppose SB 1586. This is an unnecessary annexation of EFU zoned land that hurts farmers, sets a bad precedent for ignoring the public process in land use matters, and disregards our high value soils in favor of enriching a few.

Having EFU zoned land close to our densest residential areas is what allows us to be profitable as small-scale farmers. We don't have the efficiencies of scale that national/international food companies have, so we rely on the efficiency of short, direct transportation between the farms we work with, the processors we use, and the customers we have. Converting large sections of farm land to tech development disrupts these local pathways and pushes farmers and small-scale food processors further away from the consumers, increasing the costs of local food.

Oregon has a thriving community food system because our land use laws protect EFU land close to our urban centers. Without this land, small farmers would not be able to make all the CSAs, farmers markets, and farm stands that Oregonian's love possible. SB 1586 is not necessary, there is other land within Hillsboro's UGB and the UGB of neighboring cities like Wilsonville that are better suited.

Do not sacrifice this agricultural land for a vague promise of tech investment. Do not set a precedent of ignoring community input and public process. Do not support SB 1586.

Thank you,

Nathan Moomaw
Moomaw Family Farm
Oregon City