

Submitter: Zoe I Bradbury DeSurra

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1586

Dear Members of the Senate Committee on Finance and Revenue:

My name is Zoë Bradbury DeSurra and I am a farmer in Curry County. I am writing to encourage you to oppose SB 1586. As someone whose livelihood depends firsthand on prime farmland, I am concerned about a proposal that will cause Oregon to permanently lose 1700 acres of the its best Class 1 and 2 agricultural soil to development in Hillsboro. Prime farmland is irreplaceable and rare; once it's been converted to urban/industrial use, it's gone forever.

This bill is shortsighted and it overlooks the fact that there is already plenty of land inside urban growth boundaries available for industries including high-tech. There are over 10,000 acres of industrial land around the state and 500 acres next door to the proposed development itself. Fragmentation of the farm landscape harms the entire industry. This particular section of land connects the Washington County agricultural farmscape and if we lose it to development we will further undermine Oregon agriculture, which already faces innumerable threats.

Oregon looks different and is special because of its visionary land use laws. Please don't give in to special interests and sprawl; every other state has already made that mistake and Oregon can do better than that. Please vote NO on SB 1586.

Sincerely,
Zoë Bradbury DeSurra