

Submitter: Merek Strand

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1586

As a former farm worker in Helvetia and a long-time community supported agriculture (CSA) member of a Washington County family farm, I strongly oppose SB 1586. Access to prime farmland in the Willamette Valley is already a barrier to beginning farmers - as it was for me. Removing even more farmable land from future production in Washington County will increase that barrier, preventing aspiring farmers from starting businesses that contribute to our local economy and increase food security in our region. The world class soils in the proposed UGB expansion area are non-renewable resources. If they are paved over, they will be gone forever. Protecting these lands from development strengthens our economy and community by ensuring they will be farmable for generations to come.