



February 16, 2026

Chair Broadman, Vice Chair McLane and Committee Members
Senate Committee on Finance and Revenue

Re: OACD opposes SB 1586

The Oregon Association of Conservation Districts represents Oregon's 45 Soil and Water Conservation Districts, special districts governed by elected boards. Conservation Districts help individuals, organizations, and agencies voluntarily protect and enhance soil, water, and habitat resources.

Protection of farm and forest land under the Department of Land Conservation and Development's longstanding Land Use Goals 3 and 4 is critical to maintaining the agriculture and forestry land base upon which our natural resource-based industries and conservation efforts rely. These lands are critical to Oregon's economy in providing jobs, food and fiber, and conservation values.

We oppose SB 1586 for the following reasons:

1. SB 1586 is complex: it combines significant changes to tax incentives for advanced manufacturing with the industrialization of specific tracts of land in Washington County. Rushing this complex bill in a short session bypasses the local, community, and statewide collaborations that allow residents to be engaged and for communities to accurately assess economic predictions.

Thus, the bill sets a dangerous precedent for special interests to bypass the iconic Oregon Land Use Act of 1973.

2. SB 1586 (Sections 20 and 21) proposes to industrialize capability class 1 and 2 prime farmland soils – some of the best soils for crop production in the world. These soils developed in rich silt-loam sediments deposited by the Missoula floods. Over a period of 15,000 years, these soils sequestered carbon, added

organic matter, and developed soil microbial communities, creating a remarkably fertile topsoil.

If paved over for industrial development, these soils will never produce another crop. What took thousands of years to develop can be destroyed in one construction season. Industrial development can occur on marginal soils. Farming cannot.

3. The land SB 1586 proposes to industrialize was appropriately designated Rural Reserves as part of a compromise in HB 4078 of 2014, commonly known as the “Grand Bargain.”

Proponents characterize the -4 amendment as a compromise. **It is not.** The amendment reduces the land proposed for immediate industrialization but changes the remaining land from Rural Reserves to Urban Reserves. It does not in any way change the fact that the Grand Bargain, the true compromise, is being ignored.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our concerns.
We urge you to vote no on SB 1586.

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Oregon Association of Conservation Districts