

Submitter: Anita Spaeth

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1586

My name is Anita Spaeth and I am an agricultural educator from Portland, working full-time in Hillsboro. I am writing to you today to 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. The precedent and consequences which result from SB 1586 are obviously hugely negative in all the ways which I'm sure you all know. I'm sure you know already. How do I appeal to you? As an agricultural educator, I have the privilege and joy of helping Washington County educators lead rich agricultural education in their classrooms. The more that the incredible agricultural community in this region is positively supported, the better chances that folks like myself get to have an incredibly rewarding job! I love my job and the audience I serve very deeply. In 1.5 years at my job, I've made lifelong friends by connecting with this amazing agricultural community. My joy does not derive from a financial gain either. My wage simply doesn't match the cost of living in this area. Actions, such as supporting SB 1586, have a very immediate impact on myself, and the actual thousands of children in this county who I positively impact with my work every day. I am simply not convinced by the wolf-in-sheep's-clothing with SB 1586. This is a terrible, devastating pursuit which will slowly and surely destroy the incredible jobs, family legacies, and joyful moments with community taking place in Washington County by those actions which support this incredible thing called agriculture. Our self-sustainability as a state can be enriched by not giving more of our precious, billion-dollar-worth land away so easily to elsewhere corporations. But does this matter to you at all yet if you're still needing to read letters of opposition? Anyways, please consider what is already rich and precious in this county and oppose SB 1586. Don't mess up pumpkin patches, peach picking summers, fresh country eggs, and all that incredible awesomeness we enjoy as a state! I bet you LOVE wine country! I do too! Its gorgeous and contributes huge economic gains for our state, but you can bet that SB 1586 will have a negative impact on those fabulous treasures we enjoy in this region! I think this is all a huge digression from a very personal plea for your opposition to SB 1586; I LOVE my job dearly. How many folks' current enjoyment are you really so comfortable squandering for personal gain? With respect and openness to a more intentional conversation, Anita Spaeth, Portland Oregon.