

Submitter: Taylor Haas
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1586

Chair Broadman and members of the committee,

My name is Taylor Haas, and I urge you to vote no on SB 1586. I am a member of a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program in Hillsboro. It is an incredible aspect of living in Oregon where I can support a local farm and eat locally all year round. Throughout the year, I drive just 35 minutes from my home in Portland to pick up incredibly fresh vegetables straight from the farm they were grown on. Passing SB 1586 would threaten the very land my food is grown on and make that land available for development despite the city and the state having promised it would stay in farming for at least another 40 years. I urge you to vote no.

Passing SB 1586 and taking this land irreparably harms local agriculture. Agriculture depends on soil, and this land has some of the best in the world. Class 1 soils only make up about 2% of the soils in the Willamette River Basin and are the very best farming soils on earth. The area targeted by SB 1586 has Class 1 and Class 2 soils and it is essential that we protect them for agricultural uses. Further, losing this large section of farmland that connects Washington county's farm country together could irreparably harm the entire industry.

Beyond harming agriculture, the bill has a loophole that would allow almost unlimited data centers as long as they're "attached" to another business. Data centers don't produce jobs or tax revenue. Additionally, Hillsboro already has plenty of land inside of our urban growth boundaries for industries including high-tech. There's over 10,000 acres of industrial land around the state and 500 just next door to this land in Hillsboro.

Again, I urge you to vote no on SB 1586, protecting Oregon's farm industry and protecting the very land where my food is grown.

Thank you,
Taylor Haas