

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

I write in opposition to SB 1586, the bill to “super-site” tech facilities on prime farmland in Hillsboro. My first 7 years in Oregon were spent rallying Oregonians from around the state to protect the cornerstones of Oregon’s land use program—farm and forest land protection, orderly urban expansion, and saying “no” to special interests seeking to pervert the program. One of my proudest moments was when thousands of Oregonian’s rallied to compel the Legislature to defeat legislation tailored to suspend rules to allow a rich developer to build a destination resort at Smith Rock.

I view SB 1586 in the same light. The urban growth boundary is there for a reason—to prevent sprawl and protect some of the best farmland in the world. And a cornerstone of the UGB is the requirement for thoughtful, data-based decisions about when and where to expand a UGB. Exempting these facilities in Hillsboro from that rational, step-wise process sets a bad and dangerous precedent. If we say yes to this one, this year, what other corporate interest will be back next session, demanding similar exceptional treatment?

In addition to perverting the normal land use process, this bill bring little to Oregonians, because it places even greater demands on an already staring electric grid, and will bring only a handful of low-paying jobs. It’s a bad bargain.

Please vote NO