

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

Dear Senate Committee on Finance and Revenue,

I am a homeowner in Hillsboro and move to this city 4 years ago specifically to be in close proximity to surrounding farmland.

I strongly oppose this measure for the following reasons:

Loss of high-value farmland: The land in question comprises some of the world's most fertile agricultural soil, which is an irreplaceable resource for local food systems and carbon sequestration.

Circumvention of standard land use processes: the use of temporary legislative powers to fast-track UGB expansion, bypassing the usual local planning and community input procedures that have been a cornerstone of Oregon's land use system for decades, is excluding the very people that will live with the outcome.

Despite claims of "high-paying jobs" in the semiconductor industry, the past expansions that resulted in data centers, are energy- and water-intensive but create few permanent jobs. Ongoing tax abatements for these corporations, deprive the state and city of needed revenue.

Availability of existing industrial land: Hillsboro and the greater metro area already have thousands of acres of vacant or underutilized industrial land within the current UGB, making the expansion unnecessary.

Impact on the farming community: The expansion threatens the viability of remaining farms by disrupting the network of farm-adjacent businesses and services (e.g., tractor repair, feed mills) and creating conflicts with urban development, such as increased traffic and trespassing.

Environmental concerns: Sprawl into rural areas is linked to increased pollution, higher greenhouse gas emissions due to lack of mass transit access, and added stress on existing water and sewer infrastructure.

For these reasons I strongly oppose this measure.

Sincerely,

Nicole Domkowski