

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

No local public process: Normally, decisions like this have multiple public meetings, hundreds of pages of analysis on what the net cost would be, and community consensus on what they think economic development is. None of that has happened here. Everyone expected the land to remain rural until 2065 and local farmers and businesses alike had been making decisions based on that fact. The only ones who want this expansion are the landowners inside the 1700 acres and their lobbyist who would make hundreds of millions of dollars from the sale of this land.

Land: We have plenty of land inside of our urban growth boundaries already 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. Hillsboro has had 15 years to attract high-job industries but instead is filling it rapidly with data centers and warehouses. The state does not even have an industrial lands inventory. We should know what we have and invest in those lands so we can minimize our costs and the impacts on surrounding farmland.

Expensive: We would bear the costs of this sprawl. Hillsboro hasn't shown detailed figures, but even their document shows they won't break even for 34 years. While we've heard that the bill may be amended to remove a provision that would double the tax break to businesses including data centers, another bill this session would extend a similar tax break. Other states are cutting or reassessing their tax breaks to these industries. We should not be using our tax dollars to incentivize low-job industries that waste our energy and natural resources and are profitable on their own – especially when we're in a budget crisis.