



Good. Local. Food.

TO: Senate Committee on Finance and Revenue
FROM: Medford Food Co-op
SUBJECT: No on SB 1586

February 17, 2026

Chair Broadman, Vice-Chair McLane, and members of the Senate Committee on Finance and Revenue:

My name is Halle Riddlebarger and I'm writing on behalf of Medford Food Co-op. Medford Food Co-op (MFC) is a local community-owned grocery store located in Medford, Oregon. The Co-op is cooperatively-owned by more than 5,000 community members. We feature organic produce from local farmers and a variety of local and regional products, like fresh produce, meat, cheese, beer and wine. MFC's mission is to cultivate a thriving local food economy, and a vibrant, inclusive community.

We are 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.

We care about this because Medford Food Co-op owners and shoppers prioritize community food systems, small farms, and the value agriculture brings to our community. To ensure the sustainability of our regional food system, valuable agricultural lands with rich soils must be preserved for agricultural use. High quality agricultural soils are a finite resource. We will always need land to feed ourselves, and paving over ag land for a data center will ruin it forever. Throwing away valuable resources is a foolish choice. Oregon's agricultural sector is the second largest industry in Oregon and generates \$42 billion per year in economic activity, and we can't grow food or generate economic activity on farms without farmland.

Oregon has a thriving community food system because our land use laws protect EFU land close to our urban centers. Without this land, small farmers would not be able to offer all of the CSAs, farmers markets, and farm stands that Oregonian's love. SB 1586 is not necessary. Do not sacrifice this agricultural land for a vague promise of tech investment. Do not support SB 1586.

Thank you,

Halle Riddlebarger
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