



Support for SB 1586 – The Oregon Jobs Act

Advanced manufacturing is a cornerstone of Oregon's economy, but its impact extends far beyond the manufacturers themselves. When Oregon attracts and retains large-scale industrial investment, the benefits ripple across the entire business community. Capital investment fuels construction and engineering projects. Ongoing operations create demand for logistics, utilities, and infrastructure. Professional service firms support compliance, finance, communications, and workforce development. Local retailers, restaurants, and small service providers experience increased customer activity as family-wage jobs strengthen household purchasing power.

Small businesses are often the first to feel the effects when Oregon secures major projects, and the first to feel the consequences when those opportunities go elsewhere. Lost projects mean lost contracts, reduced local spending, diminished supply chain opportunities, and slower regional growth. In today's competitive environment, states that can provide certainty, ready industrial land, and clear processes are winning these investments.

SB 1586 recognizes this reality. By addressing industrial land readiness and reinforcing a coordinated regional approach, this legislation helps ensure Oregon remains competitive for high-wage job growth while maintaining the integrity of our land use framework. The bill is not about one employer or one project; it is about sustaining a business climate where companies of all sizes can grow, invest, and create opportunity.

The following statements reflect why a few local employers and small business owners believe SB 1586 is critical to Oregon's long-term economic stability and competitiveness.

Oregon Business Owners in Their Own Words

“Although wine may seem to be just a luxury product, think of us as your economic canary in the coalmine. We benefit from people making high middle-class wages -- when people feel economically strong enough to spend their dollars on wine, they are also strong enough to support a broadly growing economy and tax base.

The Oregon Jobs Act is going to make a positive difference for the entire economy of Washington County and the state.”

Beth Klingner, Dion Vineyards, Cornelius, OR

“As an employer with more than 50 full-time employees, we depend on a stable and thriving business community to support with our print, mail, and marketing services.

For over 50 years, our company has grown alongside this region because past leaders had the foresight to plan for long-term economic growth, infrastructure, and business vitality. Their commitment to smart planning created the environment that allows employers like us to invest, hire, and serve our community today.

We respectfully urge you to continue that tradition of forward-thinking leadership.

Please prioritize policies that support responsible growth, infrastructure investment, workforce development, and a predictable business climate.”

Les Davis, Lithtex Printing, Hillsboro, OR

“As a person of color and small business owner in Washington County, I want legislators to understand that economic shocks hit minority owned businesses first and hardest. Covid in 2020 proved that, and the current downturn has repeated it. When customers pull back, credit tightens, and costs keep rising, businesses like mine have less margin for error and fewer safety nets. This means closures happen faster and recovery takes longer.

With thousands of job losses concentrated in one major sector here, and layoffs spreading into other fields that touch families across our community, we need a faster path to stable, local job creation. This bill would help bring the kind of jobs that keep households afloat, expand the tax base so our city can maintain core services without squeezing residents further, and give families real relief by restoring steady paychecks and local spending power. The bottom line is that policies that create jobs and strengthen local revenue are not abstract for us. They are the difference between small businesses surviving or disappearing, and whether working families can stay in the community they built.”

Titonian Wallace Sr., Nesace Media, Hillsboro, OR

Oregon Business Owners in Their Own Words

“Increasingly, executives and site selection consultants describe Oregon as “not open for business.”

We regularly hear that companies are unwilling to consider Oregon due to our tax structure, limited industrial land supply, and a perception that state leadership does not prioritize economic growth and development.

My team recently represented an advanced manufacturing company seeking to locate within 10 minutes of Intel... bringing up to 150 high-paying jobs to our state.

After spending a month in the pre-application process, we learned that one of the sites could not accommodate their operations due to wetlands that could not be mitigated.

Had that final Oregon site not worked, we would have lost those 150 jobs to another state.”

Karen Lisignoli, SIOR, Colliers Westside Specialists, Portland, OR

“When families have stable, high-wage employment, it creates a sense of security. That sense of security shows up in small but meaningful ways for a business like mine.

People feel comfortable spending locally. They celebrate milestones, support neighborhood shops, and participate in community life. For a downtown storefront, that stability translates into more consistent foot traffic, catering opportunities, and the ability to hire and retain staff with confidence.

Economic strength in one sector does not stay isolated. It ripples outward into the broader community.”

“As someone who comes from an immigrant family and now owns a storefront in downtown Hillsboro, I understand how meaningful economic opportunity can be. Stable employment allows families to build a life, invest in their community, and support local entrepreneurs.

Remaining competitive is not about prioritizing one industry over another. It is about ensuring that Oregon continues to be a place where families can thrive, and small businesses can grow alongside them.”

“Small businesses operate without large margins or safety nets. We rely on predictability and community confidence.”

Youtheary Sim, Sweet T Bakery, Hillsboro, OR