

Submitter: Emily Cooper

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1586

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

My name is Emily Cooper and I am a vegetable farmer outside Boring. I am 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.

My farm is located right outside the UGB, in unincorporated Multnomah County. I would not have been able to purchase this property, my “forever farm,” had it not been zoned EFU. Protecting land with this designation close to the metro area not only ensures that prime farmland is kept in farming, but also that food can be grown within an easy drive of a large population of eaters. I also have a larger pool of experienced applicants every time I need to hire. Simply put, having my farm here is a win-win for me, my employees, and my community.

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 make all the CSAs, farmers markets, and farm stands that Oregonians love possible. SB 1586 is not necessary. There is other land within Hillsboro’s UGB and the UGB of neighboring cities like Wilsonville that are better suited.

Do not sacrifice this agricultural land for a vague promise of tech investment. Do not set a precedent of ignoring community input and public process. Do not support SB 1586.

Thank you,

Emily Cooper  
Full Cellar Farm  
Boring, OR