

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

Dear Senators,

I oppose SB 1586 for several reasons. First, I am not convinced that it is necessary or beneficial for Hillsboro in the long-term to transition more farm land to industry. I reviewed the measure materials that project jobs and tax benefits, but the bill does not appear to contain any guarantee of these outcomes. Also, it is not clear that the economic analyses supporting the bill account for indirect economic impacts on residents or environmental impacts. Nor do they appear to address recent uncertainty in the targeted industries. Notably, the Governor had an opportunity to add more land to the urban growth boundary just recently and decided not to. I do not see that circumstances have changed so as to require a different result.

Second, I think that one of the things that draws residents and businesses to Hillsboro is its proximity to the country and its long history as a farming community. I was born and raised in Hillsboro, and I have seen huge open spaces and areas of farmland converted to data centers and industry--especially in the last 5-10 years. These changes have significantly impacted the city's character and the lives of people who live on or near that land. I do not think adding even more of that type of development so soon is a good idea.

Finally, I do not think the major changes in this bill are appropriate for a short session. The number of public comments in opposition during just the first hearing indicate that this is a controversial proposal that deserves careful consideration and exploration. Even if this bill contains valuable ideas, they deserve more public process, analysis, and deliberation. Please do not support this bill. Thank you.