

Submitter: Margaret Collins

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1586

This is my second message on SB 1586. In the first message, I emphasized the loss of Class I and 2 agricultural lands but did not comment on the process being used for this proposal. 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. This proposal is too important to approve without reliable and accurate data for the public to consider.

Further, 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. SB 1586 needs everyone to do their homework first. What's the rush?