

Submitter:

Nathan Seable

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1586

Dear Members of the Senate Committee on Finance and Revenue,

I am writing to express my opposition to Senate Bill 1586, the Oregon Jobs, Opportunity & Build-Ready Sites (JOBS) Act. While I understand the need for economic development and job creation in our state, particularly in high-technology and advanced manufacturing sectors, I believe this bill takes a shortsighted approach that prioritizes short-term gains over long-term sustainability.

SB 1586 would expand Oregon's urban growth boundaries, including adding hundreds of acres in areas like North Hillsboro and Washington County for industrial use. This involves converting prime rural reserves—much of which includes some of the best farmland in Oregon—into developable land. Such actions fail to consider the future implications for our agricultural heritage, food security, and environmental health. Oregon's farmland is a precious resource that supports our economy, ecosystems, and way of life. Covering it with industrial development will irreversibly diminish these benefits and decrease the livability of our communities by promoting unchecked urban sprawl.

We need only look to neighboring states like Idaho, Utah, and Montana for cautionary examples. In these areas, sprawl and leapfrog development have fragmented landscapes, eroded natural beauty, and degraded the quality of life in once-vibrant, livable communities. Oregon has long prided itself on thoughtful land-use planning to avoid such pitfalls; passing SB 1586 would undermine that legacy and lead us down a similar path of regret.

I urge you to oppose this bill and explore alternative strategies for economic growth that preserve our farmland and prioritize sustainable development. Thank you for considering my views.

Sincerely,

Nathan Seable