

February 18, 2026

Testimony on SB 1586

To the Committee:

I am extremely against allowing Oregon's best farmland to be turned into industrial uses and goes against Oregon's current land use planning structure. You should not pass this bad idea of legislation that would go against Oregon values and turn farmland to data centers that not only are ugly and serve large corporate giants, but they also are likely to use too much water at a time when Oregon needs to be more cautious with natural resources due to climate change. THIS IS BAD! A BAD DEAL FOR OREGON AND BAD FOR OREGONIANS! We have a national government we can't trust to keep any promises with the people, don't destroy our confidence in our own government to hold truth to the precedents of Oregon's land use planning system which is a backbone to how we live and breath and believe in Oregon as a unique and wonderful place. It is Oregon's birthday – please consider what the legacy of your fast money deal is going to do long term. VOTE NO!

This is the legislatures' sixth attempt to bring rural reserves into the urban growth boundary when the promises to the people are that these lands should be protected from such considerations at least until 2065. We are tired of back room deals that benefit only big corporations and are not in keeping with the land use planning that has kept Oregon from destroying our environment and agricultural economies. We should promote small farms, not large data farms. These farms are only increasing the cost of electricity for the rest of Oregonians and the legislature should fix these issues and ensure we find unused industrial buildings that could be repurposed to meet needs instead of allowing such ugly destruction of our beautiful landscape and communities. If it happens in Hillsboro it sets a precedent and it can happen anywhere in Oregon. This is bad policy. This will hurt livability, cost of living and increase reliance on having to bring in produce from out of state. These are all bad choices for us.

Say no to this legislation. Yes to Oregon and no to big developers who want to rape our farmland for their own financial gain. No to SB 1586. Agriculture is our 2nd largest industry in Oregon. Don't treat it like a stepchild. The last time we gave big money to tech firms in Oregon they still laid off a ton of people who then we had to support with unemployment checks. Breaking our trust that this land wouldn't be considered for UGB expansion til 2065, breaks trust with the entire state, with every law that we hold dear to protect our forests, watersheds, wildlife. Remember how important tourism is to Oregon? Do we want to destroy these important things for ugly buildings that are not good for us or the environment? NO NO NO.

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