

I would like to voice my opposition for this bill. The Metro Portland area has plenty of opportunities for growth that would not involve expanding the urban growth boundary. We need to think more creatively about ways to allow a thriving economy to complement rather than compete with the smart growth policies that have made our state a national leader in protecting our farms and forests.

As a resident of Portland and a partner of a farmer in the Hillsboro area I want to see farmland protected. There are abundant alternatives to this location for development. I hope the legislature can understand that although the Portland Metro area has an abundance of former industrial sites available for development this farmland shouldn't be sacrificed for a heavily tax subsidized development that does not benefit the surrounding area and in the long term hurts the resilience of our local food system.