

Submitter: Lily Burnett

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1586

Dear members of the Senate Committee on Revenue and Finance,

My name is Lily Burnett, and I am a small business owner and working parent in the Russell neighborhood of East Portland. I strongly oppose SB 1586 because we cannot afford to lose any more high-quality farm land or to give tax breaks to big businesses. It is our job as Oregonians to protect the future viability of our state, not sell it away for the empty promise of "more jobs." I own a coffee shop that serves Parkrose, a diverse East Portland neighborhood that did not have a sit-down coffee shop before our opening. In Parkrose, we know all too well what the promise of "more jobs" actually delivers when public officials listen to large corporations instead of their constituents. Prologis, an international, multi-billion-dollar company, built a 37-bay freight truck distribution center across the street from our high school in 2024, a development approved by our Portland City Council with no meaningful buffers to protect the neighboring apartments, schools, business park, and Tibetan cultural center. That ginormous warehouse still sits vacant today; they cannot find a tenant, and there are no new jobs other than the two security guards they pay to drive around the 13-acre property most days. I employ more people at my 700-square-foot coffee shop than Prologis has employed on those 13 acres. Prologis today has over 2 million square feet of vacant industrial warehouse space available to lease in the Portland area (including the site in Parkrose), listed on their website. I share this as one example, one cautionary tale to our elected leaders, to avoid the temptation to take a promise of "more jobs" from an extractive company that is in the business of acquiring more and more land for future speculation. Let's stop falling for it and spend our limited, valuable resources to support hard-working Oregonians who want to build a life for themselves here by stewarding our lands, feeding our people, and PAYING TAXES to our local jurisdictions. In addition to being a small business owner, I am the parent of a two-year-old. As she gets closer to elementary school, I am learning more and more about the alarming statistics caused by a severe lack of funding for public schools in our state, and yet here we are once again discussing tax breaks for large corporations. Oregonians are suffering because of elected officials making the wrong call on decisions like the one before you today.

Oregon is special, and Oregonians are worth investing in. I urge you to vote no on SB 1586. Thank you.