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On Behalf Of: 1000 Friends of Oregon
Committee: Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1586

SB 1586-4 is a double-edge sword cutting away irreplaceable agricultural land, and responsible tax policy from what's best in Oregon. The valuable land on the edge of urban growth boundaries serves multiple purposes. It's a buffer between dense urbanization, industrial and commercial uses. It's land that regenerates our forests, fields, aquifers, rivers, and rich soils. It's land that stabilizes where we live, how we live, and why we live where we do. It's land that provides substantial environmental and economic benefits for Oregonians' health and quality of life.

Revisions in land use policy that impact future generations, and could be irreversible in their consequences, deserve a high level of public input, full disclosure with respect to potential benefits and perils, and crystal clear transparency. SB 1586 lacks all these essential criteria. It's a land, tax give-away at a time Oregon cannot afford to slide down this slippery slope.

Short-term give-aways that produce long-term problems is a formula by subtraction not addition. It's not a solution to growing Oregon's economy when that cost cuts through the heart of Oregon's foundational land policies, and removes valuable, irreplaceable agricultural land for urbanization that has many alternative sights for it.

Please reject SB 1586-4 and SB 1586 outright, for the fundamental principles and future of Oregon.