

Submitter: Les Poole
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1586
February 17, 2026

Testimony in opposition to SB-1586

I have over 25 years of land use experience with rural property in Oregon. I vividly recall several controversies in Washington County involving encroachment on farmland to accommodate development. In numerous cases the Legislature became involved as a last resort. Some may remember the collapse of METRO's Urban/Rural Reserve mapping and the eventual passage of the Land Use Grand Bargain.

Unlike previous situations, SB-1586 is a Legislative attempt to circumvent numerous requirements of the Oregon's highly regarded planning system. A primary reason for the Oregon Land Use Plan was to preserve Agriculture. Special emphasis was given to protecting farmland. Historically farmland is last option for annexation or urbanization. Courts have repeatedly validated that tenant.

Removing 1,700 acres of productive valley farmland defies the spirit of the Oregon Plan in many ways. Approving the bill would authorize disregarding Goals 1: Citizen Participation, Goal 3: Protecting Agriculture, Goal 5: Habitat protection and often overlooked Goal 14: Urbanization. The intent of Goal 14 is to provide a smooth transition from rural to urban uses.

SB-1586 is not in the best interests of the community, invites a strong and costly legal response, and sends a message that Oregon's Legislators should be comfortable making similar decisions in the future. I believe that Senator Sollman has good intentions in her sponsorship, however, her enthusiasm does not provide justification to support the bill. Please vote in opposition to SB-1586

Les Poole
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