

Submitter:

Catherine Wargo

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB1586

Most of what we've heard from supporters of this bill is empty promises, really just wishes, backed by no data. Long shots they hope will be realized as we race to the bottom.

They say this will create jobs but there is no evidence to back this up. They say this will bring in tax dollars but there is no fiscal statement attached to this bill, no revenue statement. Tax credits and exemptions abound in this bill, ones that can be extended for years after their initial inception.

These giveaways make the claims of economic gain not only counter-intuitive but false.

This rushed bill creates a system of build first and answer questions later, and if none of their predictions pans out do undevelop the land and restore the prime farmland we paved over? How does this make any sense to pass the bill given these glaring omissions?.

As for immediate environmental impacts and their financial concerns: Our air is easily the worst in the region and the residential areas of Hillsboro will be directly downwind from this land.

The claims that environmental concerns will be addressed is also wishful thinking. Despite years since its adoption, the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality has yet to enforce the Clean Air Act of Oregon on the existing semi-conductor plants nearby allowing them to self-regulate instead.

Yet, this bill proposes new industry without the ability to regulate the pollutants they will be leaving in our environment, with no additional language or funding to make sure will happen. The cost of this on the health of citizens, and the cost on the state to address these concerns is not trivial.

So where is this money going to come from? Do we just ignore the health and environmental impacts when determine the true costs of this bill?

As for the supporters claims of proper public involvement given the past attempts at bringing this land into development – doesn't this prove that over and over this was considered a poor policy choice? And now, in a short session, with limited ability to have public input and consideration it again being tried to force through under the

radar.

This land already valuable and producing for the people of Oregon, not as concrete but as a place to grow food and claim the ecosystem services that only rural land can provide and whose value is not related to the whims of industry leaders, is verifiable, and can last for generations. .

Given these facts, I ask you to please oppose this flawed bill.