

Submitter: Denise and Christian Duren
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1586

Testimony: OPPOSE SB 1586 (The "Oregon Jobs Act")

The Issue: A Crisis of Transparency

SB 1586 is being marketed as an economic engine, but in practice, it functions as a backdoor expansion of the Urban Growth Boundary (UGB). By bypassing established land-use laws, this bill prioritizes the interests of specific landowners and lobbyists over the legal rights of Oregon residents.

Three Reasons to Vote "NO"

- * Subversion of Law: Oregon's land-use system is national gold standard because it prevents arbitrary expansion. SB 1586 creates a "Trojan Horse" loophole that allows political influence to supersede environmental and agricultural protections.

- * Zero Public Input: To date, proponents of this bill—including leadership in Hillsboro—have actively denied the public a seat at the table. This is the largest land grab in Oregon's history, yet it is being fast-tracked without community consent.

- * Pay-to-Play Concerns: The direct correlation between campaign donations from peripheral landowners and the specific parcels targeted for inclusion in the UGB undermines the integrity of the legislative process.

The Bottom Line

Economic development should not come at the cost of democratic oversight. We urge the committee to uphold Oregon's planning traditions and reject this attempt to circumvent the law for private gain.