

I oppose SB 1586.

I am an elected official serving on the Board of Directors of the Tualatin Soil and Water Conservation District, but this testimony represents my own personal opinion and not that of the District or its staff.

SB 1586 is a shameful land grab, attempting for the SIXTH TIME this decade to steal this acreage out of its designated Rural Reserve. SB 1586 seeks to bypass agreed-upon land use rules to pave over 1,700 acres for high-tech use outside of current urban growth boundaries. These 1,700 acres represent some of the best soils in the world and currently support our thriving agricultural community for which the Tualatin Valley is well known. Very little of these “prime farmland” soils are left, most acreage already having been paved over by data centers, urban and suburban uses, and sprawl. Once these last remaining class 1 and class 2 soils are developed, they are gone forever. Every short-sighted land grab such as this one further compromises the vitality of our agricultural economy, further stacking the deck against our hardworking farmers and all the ag businesses they are tied to that fuel the Oregon economy beyond the urban centers.

Further, SB 1586 proposes using these rural reserve lands for tech that has already proved a losing proposition for Oregon taxpayers. SB 1586 offers a tax break to the semiconductor industry that steals much-needed funding from our local schools, safety services, and infrastructure. Washington County taxing jurisdictions have already lost \$45 million to tax breaks for data centers in 2024. We can’t afford more giveaways to big tech, just as we can’t afford their outsized consumption of our limited water, energy, and prime ag lands.

We should be looking to smart growth and infill within existing urban centers that feeds into a healthy economy for all Oregonians. Reject SB 1586 and its irreversible land grab and tax favors for big tech.

Respectfully,

Olivia Duren
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