

Submitter: Melinda Stone
On Behalf Of: Friends of Family Farmers
Committee: Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1586

I'm writing to ask you to vote NO on SB 1586 which had a Senate Finance & Review committee on Monday 2/16/26. This bill is the latest in a long line of attempts to take a 1,700 acre parcel of land outside of Hillsboro in Washington County out of rural reserves and incorporate it into the UGB of the city.

I moved to Oregon from Florida in 2008 after having spent 8 month in 2003 on a personal sabbatical in Portland and falling in love with the state. Particularly, I moved here because of the high quality local produced food and beverages (raw dairy, wine and beer). A few months after moving to Oregon, I saw the documentary film "Ingredients" and was so proud to support all the sustainable food producers on the coast and in our magnificent Wilamette Valley.

Now, there seems to be a threat to Oregon's rich farm land and the farmers who are necessary to feed the people in our state/region. The economic threat of destroying Oregon's second largest industry, agriculture, which generates over \$42 billion dollars is not good for anyone who lives here. As a proud supporter of the farms, vineyards, food processors, butchers, fishmongers, harvesters, and my fellow foodie neighbors and friends I beg you not to demolish our thriving food system.

In order to sell the land properly, the land must be re-zoned. SB 1586 ignores the planning process. Only twelve years ago Hillsboro was granted re-zoning of 1,000 acres of industrial land converted from EFU (500 of which is still available by the way). This amount of industrial land was supposed to last the city 50 years. We cannot allow the City of Hillsboro to go back on their word. It sets a dangerous precedent. We cannot have the state legislature bow down to corporate interests and work around the proper legislative process. It is wrong.

If Oregon was to grant a legislative solution to every city that decides that the lure of a vague tech promise was more valuable than their agricultural lands, we would not have a thriving farming industry that we have. Positioning farms close to urban centers and the direct to consumer sales, restaurants that use local, seasonal grown food, agritourism opportunities, and ability to connect with the origins of our food in Oregon are all because of the proximity of productive farmland and our population centers.

Data centers create few, relatively low-paying jobs. Additionally, the bill will extend tax breaks for these same corporations—companies that can easily afford to pay their fair share, but they don't in Oregon. Data centers do not provide products and

services that the people living near them need, unlike farms.

Please do the right thing and vote NO on SB1586.

Thank you.