



February 19, 2026

Chair Broadman, Vice Chair McLane and Committee Members  
Senate Committee on Finance and Revenue

**Re: OACD opposes SB 1586**

The Oregon Association of Conservation Districts represents Oregon's 45 Soil and Water Conservation Districts, special districts governed by elected boards. Conservation Districts help individuals, organizations, and agencies voluntarily protect and enhance soil, water, and habitat resources.

There are several problems with SB 1586, including the -4 amendment that have not received sufficient attention. These problems relate to approximately 370 acres of prime farmland that the bill proposes to industrialize now and the 1330 acres that the bill seeks to reclassify as Urban Reserve so it can be industrialized in the near future. This land lies north of the city of Hillsboro.

- 1. A deal is a deal.** The "Grand Bargain," also known as the "map adjustment consensus bill," which codifies in ORS 197A.250 that the subject land (approximately 1700 acres of prime farmland) will remain in Rural Reserve until at least 2065. This Grand Bargain was reached after deliberations that included: Metro councilors, the mayors of several Washington County cities, Washington County commissioners, a representative from the governor's office, and local citizens. The city of Hillsboro quickly exercised the part of the bargain that they saw as beneficial, expanding their urban growth boundary and developing the land.

It is unfortunate and distressing that proponents of SB 1586 and the -4 amendment seem to feel unobligated to honor the other side of the agreement, which protects irreplaceable prime farmland until 2065.

**2. A complex bill in a short session.** SB 1586 combines significant changes to Oregon's tax code with changes to the specific parcels of land north of Hillsboro as described above. Either part of this bill (tax code or land use changes) deserve a thorough process of public involvement and the vetting of remarkably optimistic claims of economic benefits. Arguably, either part of SB 1586 is best addressed in a long session of the legislature.

Attempting to pass a bill with BOTH tax policy changes AND land use changes in a short session risks a bad decision with significant permanent damage.

As of drafting this letter, over 700 written testimonials have been submitted through OLIS, the vast majority of which oppose the bill. Those opposing the bill include individuals, organizations, and elected officials.

The issues with SB 1586 are of great concern to many Oregonians. The bill is complex and controversial. SB 1586 should not be moved forward in the 2026 short session.

***We urge a no vote on SB 1586.***

Oregon Association of Conservation Districts



Jan Lee, Advocacy Committee Chair