

Submitter: Sarah Chaney
Committee: Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1586

Dear Senate Committee on Finance and Revenue,

I am writing in opposition to SB 1586. The bill reneges on an agreement that was made in good faith in 2014 to protect 1,700 acres of Class 1 farmland with rural reserve zoning for 50 years. This bill would break this legal agreement in order to enrich land owners.

Most of those opposed are urgently pleading to not destroy this premier farmland that can never be replaced. Landowners and others in the agricultural community have made life decisions and investments with this promise in mind. The community depends on the jobs and way of life those 1,700 acres support.

There are a number of reasons to oppose this re-zoning:

- Community members, including those farming the 1,700 protected acres, **have had no say in this 1,700 acre land grab.** "Senator Sollman has pursued this bill without a town hall or meeting. She has rejected the concept" <https://hillsboroherald.com/senate-bill-1586-begins-a-fraudulent-march-to-annex-1700-acres-the-history-of-the-grand-bargain-2/>
- The city has over 500 undeveloped acres of industrial land in large lots, as well as other properties that have businesses on them that have closed. There is no need to change the zoning on the 1,700 acres of land. A 2023 study by Oregon Economic Development Association, League of Oregon Cities, and Oregon Business Council (along with testimony submitted by Oregon cities to the Joint Committee on Semiconductors) indicates that Oregon has almost 10,000 acres of industrial land inside our existing urban growth boundaries.
- So far, supporters of the bill haven't shown that there is any corporation or job creator waiting to build, or any local consensus of the people. Two individuals testifying on February 18th said that tech businesses are cutting jobs now and that building data centers or infrastructure for tech industry jobs would be a bad idea.
- The farming on the prime agricultural land isn't a failed enterprise, and yet those who would profit from the sale of the land would destroy it permanently. Rezoning this land and paving it over would be very short-sighted. We need to preserve our farmland so that future generations will benefit. Agricultural land also takes carbon and other greenhouse gases from the air to protect our climate.

Reneging on the *Grand Bargain* with its 50 years of protection of premier agricultural land in order to enrich land owners and real estate agents is egregious. Especially with such little local and public input.

This land and this soil are utterly precious. Land like this should be protected, full stop. It's important to have integrity in these matters and respect the laws and agreements in place.

Thank you