



February 19, 2026

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

Regarding: Opposition to SB 1586

My small business helps farmers protect natural resources in Oregon. As such, I have strong opinions about SB 1586, including the -4 amendment.

The bill proposes to industrialize 370 acres of prime farmland now and then reclassify 1330 acres from Rural Reserve to Urban Reserve so it can be industrialized in the near future. This 1700 acres is Class 1 and 2 prime farmland. Only 2-3% of Oregon land meets this classification. It is not only some of the best farming soils in Oregon, it is indeed some of the best farming soil in the world.

Elected leaders should honor commitments. The “Grand Bargain” of 2014 (see ORS 197A.250) protects the 1700 acres in question as 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 it saw as beneficial, expanding the urban growth boundary and developing the land.

It is unfortunate and distressing that proponents of SB 1586 and the -4 amendment seem to feel free to disregard their part of the agreement, which protects this irreplaceable prime farmland.

A complex bill in a short session. SB 1586 combines significant changes to Oregon's tax code with changes to these 1700 acres north of Hillsboro. Either part of this bill (tax code or land-use changes) deserves a thorough process of public involvement and the vetting of remarkably optimistic economic-benefit claims. Either part of SB 1586 is best addressed in a long legislative session.

This bill, with BOTH tax policy changes AND land use changes, in a short session is reckless and unnecessary.

The vast majority of submitted testimony, from individuals, organizations, and elected officials, opposes the bill. These Oregonians have grave concerns about the land-use provisions of the bill (Sections 20 and 21).

Please vote no on SB 1586.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony, and thank you for your service to Oregon.

Dean Moberg

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