



# Clackamas Soil and Water Conservation District

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February 20, 2026

Clackamas Soil and Water Conservation District is a special district organized under ORS 568 with the same legal boundaries as Clackamas County. Governed by board of locally elected officials, the District functions by providing technical, financial and educational resources to meet the needs of working land users for the conservation of soil, water and other natural resources.

The District is writing in strong opposition to SB 1586. This bill would put 1,700 acres of prime farmland in Hillsboro at risk of industrial development.

The need to rezone this land has not been demonstrated. There are at least 10,000 acres of industrial lands already available inside Oregon's urban growth boundaries, including several hundred that can be developed in Hillsboro alone.

Farmland, especially high-value farmland, should not be looked upon as vacant land awaiting development. SB 1586 will fracture the agricultural economy in Washington County, making it harder for surrounding farmers to travel between fields that would become separated by industrial development. The impact of removing this farmland will not just impact farming operations within these boundaries but also the surrounding natural resources will be affected by impervious surface runoff that will degrade water quality thus causing reduction of clean water resources, and habitat loss for a diverse number of wildlife species.

It is important to note that agricultural operations provide economic benefit to Washington County, to the State of Oregon, and to the United States. The crops these lands provide, primarily grass seed, supports diverse uses ranging from golf courses to livestock managers. Grass seed is Oregon's fifth top commodity, and the Oregon grass seed industry generates over \$1 billion in total economic activity annually.

Considering the highest and best use of land must also include the long-term value of generations of future farm production and the impacts on the character and economics of our local communities. The remarkable character of Washington county will be lost if we cannot assure long-term coexistence of agriculture, population growth, and development. The only way to accomplish this is to protect farmland and to focus non-farmland uses on land less suitable for farming. There are already multiple hundreds of acres of unbuilt industrial land in Hillsboro alone, and more than 10,000 acres across the state, that could be developed right now as Research and Development lands to create jobs.

There is no justification for destroying this farmland. It is an irreplaceable natural resource. A decision of this caliber should not be taken lightly. A short session is not an appropriate time to try to pass such a hugely controversial piece of legislation through.

**22055 S. Beaver Creek Rd. Ste. 1, Beaver Creek, OR 97004**  
**Ph: 503.210.6000; [conservationdistrict.org](http://conservationdistrict.org)**

For these reasons, Clackamas Soil and Water Conservation District urge you to vote no on SB 1586.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "G. L.", written in a cursive style.

District Manager