

Submitter: Rebecca Thistlethwaite

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1586

Since 1973, Oregon has protected farmland aggressively. Because of that law (SB100), we have saved Oregon farmers/ranchers from the intense pressures of development, and saved some of the best farmland in the entire country. This bill (SB 1586) would undo much of that progress, and set a precedent that cities can just lobby the state legislature to expand their urban growth boundaries onto EFU lands. Taking farmland out of production, pushing out farmers, to build giant data warehouses that consume vast amounts of water and electricity that most of our communities don't have, all while producing very few jobs.

The bill would undo a deal that Hillsboro made in 2014, agreeing to reserve the land for farm purposes for five decades, while designating 1,000 acres elsewhere for industrial use. Why bother making promises anymore when you can just ask the legislature to break them? Hillsboro already has 14 data centers, why do they need more? There are urban lands and brownfields all over the state that would be better suited for new data centers (if there is the water and energy of course).

Protect Oregon farmers. Protect our farmland legacy. Vote no on SB1586.