

Submitter: Kent Bond
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1586

Dear Oregon Senate Committee on Finance Revenue,

I am writing to express strong opposition to Senate Bill 1586.

SB 1586 would significantly harm Oregon's agricultural economy by permanently removing rare and extraordinarily productive farmland from use. Oregon's land use system has long been recognized as a national model for balancing economic growth with agricultural preservation. This bill undermines that legacy.

The proposal also undercuts decades of regional cooperation coordinated through Metro and surrounding jurisdictions. The regional Urban Growth Boundary (UGB) system was designed to ensure growth occurs in an orderly, equitable, and sustainable manner. SB 1586 reverses Hillsboro's and Washington County's 2014 agreement with Metro, other regional governments, and their own citizens regarding planned expansion and long-term development strategy.

Furthermore, the bill ignores the fact that Hillsboro already has hundreds of acres of available industrial land within the existing UGB. A significant portion of previously designated industrial land has been devoted to relatively low-employment, lower-wage data centers, rather than higher job-density industries that better serve regional employment goals. Expanding the UGB before fully utilizing available land sets a troubling precedent.

There are also thousands of acres of developable land already inside the existing regional growth boundary. Adding 1,700 acres to Hillsboro's UGB would displace planned growth to the edge of the region, undermining coordinated infrastructure planning and long-standing land use commitments.

SB 1586 would likely serve as an accelerant for additional UGB expansions in the future, weakening the predictability and integrity of Oregon's land use system statewide.

Finally, this expansion would place substantial strain on transportation systems and essential public facilities, including domestic water supply and wastewater treatment infrastructure. Expanding outward before efficiently developing inward increases long-term public costs and infrastructure burdens for the region.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to oppose SB 1586 and protect Oregon's agricultural economy, regional planning integrity, and infrastructure sustainability.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Kent Bond