

Submitter: Pryor Garnett  
On Behalf Of: Self and family  
Committee: Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1586

I write in strong opposition the land use re-designations of SB 1586, both as originally submitted and as (many-times) amended.

The subject land (approximately 1700 acres) is absolutely prime farmland, highly productive and irreplaceable. In 2014 it was designated as Rural Reserve until at least 2065, in exchange for other, nearby Washington County land being included in the Urban Growth Boundary or designated as Urban Reserve and made ready for development, as part of the Grand Bargain (HB 4078 of 2014; codified in ORS 197A.250). The Grand Bargain was extensively and vigorously negotiated by all affected parties. After its passage, the city of Hillsboro quickly exercised the part of the bargain that they saw as beneficial, expanding their urban growth boundary and developing the land.

Now, the proponents of SB 1586 and its amendments seek to designate Rural Reserve land for development, apparently feeling no obligation to honor the reciprocal part of the Grand Bargain. That is ethically wrong because it unilaterally breaches a negotiated agreement. And it is wrong as a matter of responsible land use, because the subject land is still agriculturally productive and supporting Washington County's rural economy.

Please reject the land use provisions of SB 1586, however they may be amended, and retain the Grand Bargain that was agreed and codified in 2014.