



*Delivered in person to the Senate Committee on Finance and Revenue
February 16, 2026*

Good morning Chair Broadman, Vice-Chair McLane, and members of the Committee:

My name is Sam Diaz. Executive Director for 1000 Friends of Oregon. We are accountable to our members all across the state, our forestry agricultural advisory committee, and our board of directors (half of whom are Oregon farmers and ranchers, others bringing experience as planning directors, developers, and elected officials).

I'll just make two points as we urge you to not move this base bill and -4 amendment forward.

First, we must acknowledge the hard work, the talent, and the innovation that our farmers, farmworkers, ranchers, and forest land managers bring to our state. Not just for being an economic powerhouse. But the experiences we get to enjoy as Oregonians because of their hard work.

But for too many, our stewards are facing direct threats like this bill. SB 1586 proposes to directly clear the path to pave over 30 active farming operations. The bill also fails to forecast the dominos that would fall to the broader economy: agricultural equipment suppliers and lenders, farmers markets, CSA programs, and local restaurant supply chain relationships.

The second point is there is simply no need for more raw land. In 2023, OBC, OEDA, and League of Oregon Cities received responses about whether Oregon cities and towns had industrial lands or not. The survey said: we do. Over 10,000 acres. sites of all sizes including multiple 500 acre plus sites. Zooming into Portland metro's UGB? We have over 5,000 thousand acres of



industrial lands. What's even more apparent is how much vacant land and empty buildings we have in the region. In Portland's central city alone, we're suffering from a 40% commercial vacancy rate (the highest in the nation) and 6% industrial vacancy rate (a 15 year high).

Instead, we need to focus on land readiness dollars - and that's something every district can benefit from.

Drink Oregon wine.

Buy Oregon beef and lamb.

Use Oregon wood to build the housing we need.

Support Oregon ag and forestry.

Help revitalize a cratered and vacant Portland metro region.

Join us in DC as we push for federal funding for job creation and infrastructure.

These are the things we must do to take control of our economy and bring opportunity and stability to Oregonians. SB 1586 takes us down the wrong path.

We respectfully ask you to not pass this bill or -4 amendment forward through committee.