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February 22nd, 2026

Senate Committee on Finance and Revenue,
Dear Chair Broadman, Vice-Chair McLane and Members of the Committee

I am writing in opposition to SB 1586.

SB 1586 is a betrayal of the 2014 “Grand Bargain” compromise bill which established urban and rural reserves for Washington County and the Metro region.

SB 1596 is a betrayal of where urban lands will be planned to grow and where rural lands would be protected for period of 40 to 50 years.

One of the main purposes of Oregon’s land use plan is to establish a plan where all parties can benefit Oregon’s economy. Cities can plan where to expand and create capacity for urban needs such as roads, sewer, water, other utilities and public buildings such as schools. Farmers and others can plan what investments to make in their land, equipment and farm infrastructure.

SB 1586 would remove this foundation. The very reason why our land use system was created and put into place.

Flat fertile farmland or forest land will always be easier to urbanize. Also, there is no question that flat fertile farmland or forest land cannot be replaced. There is only so much of this finite resource.

This land would be brought in for speculative purposes as there has been no demonstrated need or planning.

SB 1586 will direct urbanization to lands we should be protecting for ourselves and future generations.

Oregon should be honoring the agreements, ie contracts, that were made with the urban and rural communities.

I urge a no vote.

Respectfully,

Rod Park.
Park’s Nursery
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