



February 23, 2026

Senate Committee on Finance and Revenue

RE: SB 1586 — OPPOSE

Chair Broadman, Vice-Chair McLane, and Committee Members:

Friends of the Columbia Gorge (“Friends”) is a non-profit organization with approximately 4,000 members. Friends is dedicated to protecting and enhancing the scenic, cultural, recreation, and natural resources of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area (“Gorge” or “National Scenic Area”). Advocating for strong statewide land use laws and protecting our state’s farmland is central to Friends’ mission.

Friends opposes SB 1586, including the -4 amendment. This bill would expose 1,700 acres of prime farmland to the risk of industrial development. The -4 amendment, which would immediately bring 373 acres of farmland into the Hillsboro Urban Growth Boundary, while designating the other 1400 acres as urban reserves, to be targeted for industrial development in the future. These 1,700 acres in question are supposed to be protected as rural reserves until 2065, and changing this designation would be breaking a promise made by the legislature in 2014.

It is crucial that we protect Oregon’s farmlands, which are a diminishing resource in our state. This bill would drive up costs of farmland, creating barriers for new farmers looking to purchase land and driving up costs for existing small farmers. SB 1586 sets a dangerous precedent for land grabs operating outside our state’s established land use system and processes.

SB 1586 creates a situation where the legislature would be favoring one industry over another. The decision to pave over some of Oregon’s best farmland to foster industrial development unfairly pits the agricultural industry against the tech industry. This directly contradicts Goal 3 of Oregon’s Statewide Land Use Planning Goals, which protects our state’s farmland.

Please vote “no” on SB 1586 and stand up for Oregon’s land use planning system.

Sincerely,
Madison Kenney
Advocacy & Policy Coordinator