



To: Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue  
900 Court Street NE Salem, OR

Date: February 23rd, 2026

Sub: Testimony in opposition to SB 1586

To: Chair Broadman, Vice-Chair McLane, and members of the committee,

For the record, my name is Eliza Walton. I am the coalition director at Oregon League of Conservation Voters (OLCV) and I help coordinate the Oregon Conservation Network (OCN) which is a network of not-for-profit organizations throughout Oregon, united to advocate for pro-conservation legislation and to fight policies that threaten our state's natural legacy. I'm here in opposition to SB 1586, which the Oregon Conservation Network has designated as a Major Threat this session.

First, the process matters. Advancing a proposal of this magnitude in a short session, without meaningful stakeholder engagement, is inappropriate. Today you will be hearing from a lot of people on the land use piece of SB 1586 because this bill didn't go through a policy committee before getting to you all.

Second, I want to address the jobs issue directly. The environmental community is not anti-growth, and we are not anti-jobs. We support family-wage jobs, clean industry, and long-term economic resilience. But smart growth means aligning job creation with sound land use planning.

If we are serious about economic development, we should be investing in our existing cities and towns, especially communities that already have available industrial land and need revitalization. True density means building up where infrastructure already exists, where transit can be expanded efficiently, and where we can reduce sprawl and climate pollution. Expanding into rural reserves is not the only path to growth, it is simply the most permanent and environmentally costly one.

There are also significant concerns about infrastructure. These lands were designated as rural reserves until 2065. They are not ready for industrial development. Extending water, sewer, roads, and energy infrastructure into this area will be expensive, disruptive, and likely subsidized by taxpayers. We have not seen the data demonstrating that this reversal is necessary or fiscally responsible.

Finally, as a state, we are actively fighting against federal overreach and the dismantling of bedrock protections like the Clean Air Act and the Clean Water Act. We argue that those reversals ignore science and long-standing commitments. Why, then, would we exercise similar overreach at the state level, overturning a heavily negotiated land use settlement in Hillsboro without clear justification.

Oregon made a commitment to keep these lands in rural reserve until 2065. That commitment should mean something.

Thank you, Eliza Walton

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Eliza Walton".

Coalition Director  
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Oregon League of Conservation Voters  
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