



Dear Chair Anthony Broadman, Vice Chair Mike McLane, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to SB 1586. As a resident living just south of the proposed expansion, I am deeply concerned about the impact this legislation will have on our community.

My family has rich, deep roots in Washington County. While we have witnessed many positive changes over the years, I do not believe this proposal represents a step forward for our region. Expanding industry without a corresponding expansion in housing will only increase the demand for homes we do not have. Currently, our housing market has priced out even those making over \$100,000 per year; we desperately need more types of affordable housing rather than industrial growth.

The 1,700 acres of land in question could be utilized much more effectively. Instead of industrial use, this area could support a significant housing development—similar to the community-centric model in South Hillsboro—that fosters a true sense of neighborhood. Using this space for industrial purposes, particularly for facilities that employ very few people, is a missed opportunity for our growing population. Furthermore, such developments can act as a deterrent for people looking to move into the area.

We have a chance to do so much more with this land to address the housing affordability crisis. I urge you to prioritize "homes first, industry second" and vote no on SB 1586.

Thank you for your time and for considering the future of our community.

Brian O'Connor, RN