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Senate Finance and Revenue Committee
State Capitol, 900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97310

Re: Senate Bill 1586

Dear Chair Broadman and Committee Members:

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the above legislation and ask that you vote “no” on it. SB 1586 should never get out of this committee.

This land grab by the city of Hillsboro must fail for at least the following major reasons:

- It will surrender some of Oregon’s most productive farmland in violation of the Grand Bargain of 2014. Hillsboro was a willing participant in arriving at that compromise under which, as others have explained, the Rural Reserves in question now were to remain Rural Reserves and not opened to urban development until at least 2054. That is the agreement Hillsboro made and now asks you to unwind for them.

- In eliminating that farmland, SB 1586 will not bring about productive development. It will not result in a significant number of jobs or any needed housing. Hillsboro’s overarching goal is simply to expand its tax base, although how that would actually work in light of the usual property tax giveaways for any sort of self-proclaimed tech development is unclear. What *is* clear is that the only likely new development would take the form of ever more data centers. These are extraordinary power sucks that will compel ever-increasing electricity rates for Oregon ratepayers, with little or nothing given in return. As stated in the *New York Times* on February 21, “data centers around the country are increasingly a target of opposition for local residents who dislike the noise, the disruption, the secrecy ***and the lack of community benefits like jobs.***”

Thank you, Hillsboro. This would be a new kind of deal for Oregonians, gifted by their legislators: a true Trumpian bargain. The legislature should know better than to facilitate it.

Senate Finance and Revenue Committee
February 23, 2026
page two

And speaking of shamelessness (as well as a possible source of real savings for Metro region taxpayers), we have the members of the 4-3 majority of the Metro Council who voted to support this travesty. Metro is charged by law with coordinating regional planning in compliance with state land use laws and regulations and its own Regional Framework Plan and Urban Growth Management Functional Plan. It was neither created nor is it authorized to operate as some sort of regional swag bag, handing out goodies as it sees fit regardless of the law.

The Portland area does not need an extra layer of swag. If the Metro Council does not want to do its job, then it should not have that job. Cities and counties can handle it at least as well (or poorly) on their own.

Special legislation, drafted to override carefully developed laws and administrative rules, should be reserved for emergency use only. If there is an emergency here, it is not the one imagined by proponents. Rather, it is the proponents themselves.

Please vote “no” on SB 1586.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey L. Kleinman

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