

Submitter: Teriesa McClelland  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1586

Dear Finance & Revenue Committee Members:

We are writing to you today because we oppose Senate Bill 1586 for many reasons.

Oregon has an established method for expanding its urban growth boundaries. This process has worked extremely well while also protecting our state from much of the urban "blight" that one sees throughout the country. We object to the proponents of this bill attempting to bypass this process for the gain of a few, instead we ask that any expansion to be done remain within Oregon's existing law. Please uphold Oregon's existing law and land use process.

The City of Hillsboro has used its industrial land to support large data center development that DID NOT create high paying jobs while paving over farmland. A drive down Highway 26 will demonstrate the resulting sprawl in exchange for a few jobs. There is no reason to believe Hillsboro will do anything different with new land.

The recent industrialization of the land surrounding Hillsboro and the construction of large data centers has resulted in exponential electric utility rate increases for local citizens and for intensive use of other natural resources including water. This bill does not stop corporations from including data centers as part of their manufacturing plant development which may result in ever increasing electric rates and strain on our power grid as well as drains on other natural resources.

The 1700 acres in question is some of the highest quality remaining farmland in the country. It does not make sense to pave over this valuable resource needed for food production. Many experts including Peter Zehein have discussed the crises of diminishing farmland. And, in his books he cites Oregon as one of the few remaining parts of the country with fertile high quality farmland. Once it is paved over it is gone. Please protect this vital natural resource.

Finally, Oregon's current lack of jobs and potential fiscal shortfalls cannot be solved by short term solutions such as paving over farmland for limited jobs. Revenue shortfalls generated by continuing property tax breaks for industrialization of farm land is not the correct long term solution. It is time to adequately inventory and assess all available industrial land throughout the State and develop strategic plans for bringing additional jobs to Oregon. This needs to include rural Oregon.

Respectfully submitted,

Teriesa M McClelland  
Joseph R McClelland  
Beaverton, OR