

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

We oppose Oregon senate bill 1586 that would add 1700 acres of Hillsboro farmland to industrial zoning for use in building AI data centers. Hillsboro already has over 500 undeveloped acres of industrial land. The 1700 acres is needed for farmland, not AI data centers. Agriculture is Oregon's second largest industry, and with climate change causing more drought or flooding, we need more acreage for food production. It has been estimated that by 2030 there is going to be mass unemployment due to AI replacing 2/3rds of jobs, so what good is developing more data centers. AI data centers will not lead to more job growth in the long term or to financial prosperity for Oregon citizens. The only ones who stand to benefit are the big tech firms, who also receive massive tax cuts.

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