

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

To Chair Broadman, Vice Chair McLain and the members of the committee,

My name is Annette Stanhope, and I work for a nonprofit and am a single mom raising a teenager in East Portland. I am a 3rd generation Oregonian with family members who have worked in key sectors in Oregon, ranging from IT to professional trucking to electrical power.

But my grandparents' background was farming, and I have a great respect and affection for those who still work the land to provide sustenance for our communities. I myself have a small garden and take pleasure in growing fresh produce.

I am also raising a teenager and am concerned about the shortsightedness of efforts to get on the "get rich quick" scheme of cozing up to data center interests. With climate change and increased fire risk putting stresses on California, the top agricultural producing state, the need for farmland is going to be increasingly more important. We need to be preserving Oregon's agricultural capacity, not minimizing it.

I am also aware that these data centers do not create a lot of quality jobs. And with many people in Oregon living paycheck to paycheck, the importance of living wage jobs with transferrable skills is critical. In 2023, 737,157 households (42% of all households in Oregon) earned above the Federal Poverty level, but could not afford basic, local survival budgets for housing, childcare, food, transportation and healthcare. (Based on data collected by United for ALICE--asset limited, income constrained, employed.)

We need to be focused on building more green employment opportunities that pay living wages, repurpose the materials we have, and protect our farmland and invaluable ecosystems.

Please take the longer view and vote "no" on SB 1586. Thank you.