

Submitter: lynn handlin

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1586

Chair Broadman, Vice Chair McLane, and members of the committee,

My name is Lynn Spitaleri Handlin, I live in Happy Valley, Oregon.

I am urging you all to oppose SB1586, a climate change fueling land grab that will benefit few at the expense of the rest of us. This bill will convert 1700 acres of prime farm land, some of the best farm land in the world, to dead land with data centers on it. My partner is a small farmer in Molalla, on land that is farmed with some limited success, but it is damaged land and we understand deeply the value of prime farm land, with good deep soil like that which this bill will be converting to dead land.

While proponents of this bill claim it is not for data centers, that is just not true. There are loop holes in this bill that you can plunk giant data centers in. This bill is a disastrous, cruel trade off that does not make economic sense.

Hillsboro already has hundreds of acres of industrial land not in use, and statewide there are over 10,000 acres available for industrial use. Hillsboro has already made bad land use moves using industrial land that was supposed to be for lots of well paying jobs, for low job, highly destructive, data centers. What a waste of resources and tax dollars (these data centers cost the state and local governments dearly in tax breaks).

The harm caused by these monsters is enormous. Their huge energy consumption fuels the climate crisis and drives up utility rates for ordinary people. The energy use will strain our already strained utility grid. The massive water consumption is harmful to our rivers and streams. And the noise pollution is truly heinous, making life in what was a quiet farming community hellish. All this for an industry that is not doing a lot of good for our communities, or the planet.

If you are inclined to support this bill, please visit a data center farm first, imagine what it would be like to live next to one.

We need to preserve our farm land to feed our people, not dead land to feed bank accounts for the wealthy and big tech corporations. As the climate heats up the value of good farm land, and healthy waterways is becoming increasingly critical for our survival. Please do not doom future generations, and hurt communities today with this bill.

Thank you in advance for doing the right thing, for caring about our communities, and the health of our environment by opposing this bill.

Lynn Spitaleri Handlin