

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

Members of the Committee. (This is my second try. In my first submission parts were somehow deleted so it made no sense. My apologies.)

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony. I think SB 1586 is one of the most potentially damaging bills for Oregon and Oregonians submitted in this short legislative session. There is ample land within existing UGBs, hundreds of acres in Hillsboro alone, for industrial growth. However, I have never understood our preference for very large, out-of-state corporations, to whom we are eager to give very large tax credits, along with our precious water and electricity, in our attempt to lure them to Oregon. These are, without exception, wealthy companies just searching for the best deal they can get. When the credit pipeline runs dry they have no compunction about searching for the next state who will offer them a better deal. Don't we in Oregon have wiser things to do with the money we are giving away with such large and lengthy tax credits? Other important issues that affect all Oregonians? Maybe homelessness, more affordable health care, affordable housing opportunities, climate adaptation and mitigation, rising energy costs and potential grid issues, road maintenance, etc. Or, best of all, we could actually give some tax breaks to struggling but tried-and-true, long time local family businesses with their roots in our communities.

The argument that this bill does not include "stand alone" data centers seems disingenuous to me. I can only imagine how easy it will be to define any particular project as thoroughly "standing together" with another business. I feel it is just a trick to get this bill passed.

Big Tech, Data Centers, Server Farms use enormous amounts of water and electricity. Why, oh why would we want to squander these ever scarcer and more expensive resources on out of state businesses? I want to protect and enhance what we have left for my grandchildren and yours so they can live in as wonderful and abundant an Oregon as I grew up in. The future is very unpredictable. Times are hard for some people now and may well get harder for many of us. When push comes to shove, what we need is good, accessible food, clean water, shelter and functioning local communities, local businesses, local jobs - not more resource gobbling devices, AI, Server farms and Data Centers from somewhere with no real connections or buy-in to local communities.

PSU says our population will grow. Climate Change says snow pack is diminishing, fire danger rising, whole ecosystems threatened and this bill wants to pave over more

productive, close-in farmland. Please, someone, tell me why this isn't just one more scheme to make a few people richer and do not-much-of-anything for the rest of us Oregonians.

I urge you to let this bill die in committee. Future generations will thank you and so will many of the rest of us.

Sincerely,
Sarah Deumling