

Dear members of the Senate Committee on Finance and Revenue,

My name is Dr. Dawn Nafus, and I have spent the last 20 years doing research and development at a technology company in Hillsboro. I have over 40 peer-reviewed publications and a PhD from a world-class university. In theory, I am the person that SB1856 is supposed to benefit.

I am here to tell you that the only benefit will go to the land speculators looking to manipulate the system, not researchers like myself.

Corporations that ride investor-driven booms and busts do not deserve our tax dollars, and they certainly do not deserve or need some of the best, carbon-sequestering farmland in the country.

R&D can, in the wrong hands, do terrible things. Deepfakes, misinformation machines, and discriminatory algorithms all required R&D to build. Why should these get a tax break?

Public dollars are meant to be for *public* benefit. **We already have an excellent system for driving innovation that creates jobs while inventing things that benefit society rather than harm it, and it is called a university.** We should not spend hundreds of millions of dollars to subsidize some of the deepest-pocketed companies in the world at a time when our university system is barely creaking by, and where talented researchers are told there is no money in the coffers to do their work.

This bill chases yesterday's jobs, not tomorrow's jobs. The heavy industry side of the tech industry--whether silicon manufacturing for data centers, or data centers themselves, even when supposedly "ancillary" to other facilities on a site -- is rooted in an AI bubble that investors and even tech titans themselves agree is set to burst. We are contemplating permanently degrading land that will feed us, and devoting massive amounts of energy and water we don't have spare, in order to take a gamble on yesterday's news.

It's not a good gamble.

With 10,000 acres of unbuilt industrial land in the state already, the excuse that this will "attract new industry" doesn't hold water. The only winners will be the land speculators profiteering off the difference in land prices upon rezoning.