

Submitter: Emma Prichard

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1586

Good morning and thank you for the opportunity to submit comments on the expansion of, and tax credits for, data centers in Hillsboro. Regarding the issue of land use, I strongly oppose any new data centers in Oregon, but most importantly, in the Hillsboro area where it would destroy invaluable farmland. If the legislature wishes to allow new data centers, then they should be required to go into vacant industrial lots, and no land use changes should be made to accommodate. I get the majority of my fresh fruits and vegetables from a farm adjacent to the proposed data center site in Hillsboro. This farm has been an incredible resource for my family. We are able to get organic, locally grown, small climate impact, nutritious foods for every week of the year because of this farm. My family would not be able to afford the same level of nutritious food if not for this farmland. Farms in the Metro area are incredibly valuable for promoting community health, meeting the Oregon Climate Action Plan, providing affordable food, and valuable sustainable jobs. I strongly support keeping all existing farmland in Oregon, and especially the Hillsboro area, as farmland.

Regarding the issue of tax credits, I strongly oppose the Oregon Legislature allowing any tax credits, economic incentives, or otherwise taking from the state coffers to allow for data centers to move into Oregon. We have seen clearly from Amazon Web Services and others and these tech companies do not care for people or our communities. They may provide a few jobs or a few years, but the economic, community, water, and climate cost will be far greater. I want a sustainable, healthy, community, and the way to do that is by aggressively supporting local food production. Additionally, we know the state budget is being heavily taxed. As a member of Oregon AFSCME, I am first to see the impacts of cutting positions, refusing to fill state government rolls, and the negative impact that a limited state budget has on ensuring a viable and healthy Oregon. We need corporations, especially those making billions of dollars, to pay their fair share. They are able to afford it. And if they can't, we don't want their jobs or their money. We don't want data centers who use our drinking water, attempt to skirt DEQ regulations, and bully small communities. We don't want AI. We want organic food, small farms, and a healthy, climate forward future.

Thank you so much for your consideration on this issue.

Summary: I oppose the entire content of SB 1586 on the basis that it does not support the goals of the Oregon Climate Action Plan and that it will take valuable economic and nutritional resources from our state.