

Submitter: Victoria Demchak
On Behalf Of: Data centers are toxic
Committee: Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1586

Dear Chair Broadman, Vice-Chair McLane, and members of the committee:

I live within three miles of these 1700 acres. My children go to school nearby, with multiple existing data centers visible from their school. A battery storage facility is planned across from their elementary school. If our recent past is any indicator, these decisions will destroy my community by polluting this area while failing to show significant or meaningful financial changes to our lives.

1 - This is unlikely to create advanced manufacturing ventures. Hillsboro has been poor at inviting advanced manufacturing: their UGB expansions since 2011 show fewer than 50 acres of advanced manufacturing but 29 data centers. Notable businesses on recent expansions include QTS (Facebook data centers), Amazon fulfillment and data centers, and Top Golf. These facilities do not demonstrate the wage or career profile promised.

2 - Energy use and pollution: Data centers are significant users of power and water and their back-up generators are significant sources of pollutants. Anticipated data center energy load is double the average usage of all homes in Oregon. To quote from DEQ's data center permit page;

"Since 2018, Oregon has seen a rapid expansion of data centers that aligns with trends seen throughout the country and around the world. As of 2025, Oregon has over 40 data centers either permitted or proposed which includes 6,000 megawatt (MW) of backup electrical generating capacity which is double the average MW usage of all the homes in Oregon.

At present, all data centers in Oregon rely on the typical electrical grid for their primary power needs, but also use diesel-powered engines to provide backup power in the event of an electrical outage. Most existing data centers in Oregon use EPA Tier 2 certified engines (Tier 0 engines emit the most pollution while Tier 4 emit the least). These Tier 2 engines do not use pollution controls and emit Diesel Particulate Matter (DPM), Fine Particulate Matter (PM2.5), Nitrogen Oxides (NOx), Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC) and other pollutants."

(<https://www.oregon.gov/deq/aq/aqPermits/Pages/Data-Center-Permit.aspx>, accessed 2/13/2026)

3 - Our benefits: My children attend a Title 1 school nearby. Nearly all of the newly developed data centers, Amazon warehouses, Top Golf, and other facilities are

within the catchment area. These organizations, despite their value, do not connect with our school. They do not donate, they do not offer job programs; rather, we work in their shadow. This is not the relationship that we hope our new corporate citizens take.

Please consider whether it is useful to further break and grind down our community to extract the value of proximity to large powerlines and flat ground. This is Oregon. We have inexpensive power elsewhere. Local success in data center production hurts a community, it doesn't help it.

Thank you,
Victoria