

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

I appreciate the opportunity to express opposition to SB 1586. This bill will rezone prime farmland for industrial use including data centers. This will threaten Washington County's agricultural economy, disrupt local food supply now and into the future, and is a shortcut around our land use system in favor of special interests.

Those who support this bill reference economic benefits. This bill will open up for industrial development to include data centers. Please note that economically, data centers only create short-term construction jobs and generally offer few, if any, long-term, permanent jobs on-site. While a data center may span hundreds of thousands of square feet, it often only requires a small team—roughly 5 to 50 employees—for daily operations, maintenance, and security. Therefore, SB 1586 is a bad return on investment given that it will destroy healthy agriculture land.

Therefore, I urge you to vote NO on Senate Bill 1586.