

Submitter: Leif Eccles

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1586

My name is Leif Eccles and I live in Hillsboro, Oregon. I am writing to express my opposition to SB 1586.

I work in the semiconductor industry in Hillsboro. My views and opinions are my own. I deeply understand the semiconductor industry and the importance of our industry to the economic growth of Washington County and the state of Oregon. Washington County is also home to the most pristine farmland in the world.

SB 1586, the so-called "Oregon JOBS Act", will absorb 1700 acres of pristine farmland and parts of the Tualatin River Watershed into Hillsboro's urban growth boundary. And yet, there is plenty of space within the urban growth boundary that could be developed. Hillsboro has continued to expand the urban growth boundary year over year without meaningfully creating new high-paid tech jobs and tax revenue for the state. But this has driven up the cost of land pushing out local family farms that can't compete with big tech companies.

Senator Janeen Sollman claims that this bill will create high-paid tech jobs. In the last 2 years, I have seen first-hand that semiconductor companies in Oregon have been laying off workers or moving their jobs out of state. There is no appetite to expand semiconductor development in Oregon right now.

Sen. Sollman also claims that this bill will not create "stand alone data centers" but there is a massive loophole in her bill that makes this not only possible but very likely given the market right now. As long as AI Data Centers have a small section of their building dedicated to research they get around Sen. Sollman's loophole. AI Data Centers do not create semiconductor jobs - they create short-term construction jobs and a handful of IT jobs to maintain a massive building of servers that require extreme uses of water and electricity to maintain. These data centers suck up our energy and water resources causing our utility rates to skyrocket.

On top of that, these companies are not meaningfully contributing to Oregon's revenue base because of sweetheart tax breaks. School districts across the state including in Washington County have had to lay off teachers & staff because of tax revenue losses – this amounted to \$275 million in 2024 alone. Every year our public schools have to get by with less while out-of-state corporations get rich not paying their fair share of taxes. When the AI bubble bursts, we'll be left with empty warehouses contributing nothing to Oregon's economy.

For all of these reasons and more, I ask that you vote NO on SB 1586.

Thank you for your time,
Leif Eccles