

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

As a citizen of Hillsboro, Oregon, I am submitting written testimony in strong opposition to SB 1586 that would allow approximately 17,000 acres of rural reserves to become incorporated into Hillsboro's Urban Growth Boundary. This Bill, in its present form, would allow for data centers to exist in unlimited form and numbers if tied to other developments. Rich farmland would be lost, changing forever the landscape and ending some of the storied agricultural history that has been a part of Oregon's economy and its very soul for centuries. This land was expected to remain rural until 2065. Oregon is known worldwide for promoting clean, green industries. Data centers are not known for their clean, green practices- they deplete natural resources and add costs to our energy bills.

Data centers pose a variety of environmental, climate, and health related problems. The volume of water needed to cool servers in data centers has become a nationwide issue, particularly in the west which already faces water scarcity. Amazon owned data centers in Eastern Oregon have recently been linked to cancer clusters, higher rates of miscarriages, and tainted water. Please see 11/24/25 Rolling Stone article " The Precedent is Flint: How Oregon's Data Center Boom Is Supercharging A Water Crisis" by Sean Patrick Cooper (See link to article at the end of this written testimony). The long term effects of data centers on increased morbidity and mortality are not yet fully known. Please do not sacrifice the health, clean air, water, and other natural resources of Oregonians by allowing our beautiful natural reserves to be paved over by data center development that benefit only a few and rob all of us of clean air, water and good health.

This land grab has been crafted without transparency or significant public input by the very citizens it affects. Lobbyists and landowners inside the 17,000 acres are the ones who benefit by making millions of \$ from the sale of this land along with the politicians pushing this bill forward. Tax breaks given to data centers by local governments mean Hillsboro residents could pay more to compensate for this loss of tax revenue at a time when Oregon faces a budget deficit. Our communities need increased state support for education, childcare, health care and community services including fire and rescue, police, and social services at a time when the federal government is not funding the state at previous levels.

In summary, I strongly oppose this bill because it permanently destroys rich, rural farmland that was protected by law until 2065; land that preserved a unique Oregon way of life. It allows data centers to be built in unlimited amounts if part of another development . They are known to use large amounts of natural resources and now

these centers have been recently implicated in serious health outcomes (including cancer clusters, higher rates of miscarriages, asthma, and tainted water leading to other significant health concerns). These centers do not add employment opportunities for many once they are built and they do not add to our tax revenues causing citizens to carry the burden. Lastly, the process by which this bill was crafted was done behind closed doors without the minimum amount of public input or comments. This is not how Oregon or America exercises democracy. We need to do much better than this for our children and their children. Please do not vote for SB 1586. Thank you for your kind consideration of this written testimony.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia Richmond

<https://www.rollingstone.com/culture/culture-features/data-center-water-pollution-amazon-oregon-1235466613/> (Link to article from Rolling Stone 11/24/25 " The Precedent is Flint:How Oregon's Data Center Boom Is Supercharging A Water Crisis" by Sean Patrick Cooper