

Feb. 15, 2026
Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue

Re: Senate Bill 1586 - Jobs, Opportunity, Build-ready Sites (JOBS) Act

Dear Broadman, Vice-Chair McLane, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Cora Leung, and I am a resident, homeowner, and taxpayer in Hillsboro of Senate District 15. I write to express my strong opposition to Senate Bill 1586 and urge you to reject this legislation. While proponents frame this bill as economic development, it fundamentally undermines Oregon's land use laws, gives tax breaks to major corporations, and threatens some of our state's most productive farmland.

This bill attempts to circumvent the urban and rural reserves process—a carefully negotiated framework designed to provide certainty for farmers, cities, and developers alike. The rural reserves in Washington County were designated through years of community process and public input. These reserves represent a 50-year commitment to protect farmland and natural areas from urban development. SB 1586 would break this agreement and undermine public trust in Oregon's land use system. The rural reserves targeted by this bill include some of the most productive agricultural land in Oregon and the world. Converting this farmland to industrial use is irreversible and threatens our state's agricultural economy, food security, and rural character. Once lost, this land can never be reclaimed for farming.

In fact, one of the key reasons I chose to live in Hillsboro is due to the amount of wide-open spaces, local farms, and thriving local economy. It does not sit well with me that legislators are attempting to give tax credits and our productive land to stand alone data centers- something that will take up water, increase my energy bill, and form urban heat islands. **At a minimum, data centers should be removed from this entire bill, not just from the zoning provisions.**

This bill also bypasses the proper channels for land use decisions—Metro, Washington County, and the Land Conservation and Development Commission. By using legislative action to redesignate rural reserves, SB 1586 sets a dangerous precedent that undermines Oregon's citizen participation requirements (Goal One) and the integrity of our land use planning system.

While I recognize that our state does need to encourage economic development, we have other options for economic development that don't require sacrificing rural reserves:

- Utilizing existing industrial lands more efficiently;
- Redeveloping underutilized urban areas;
- Supporting infill development within current urban growth boundaries; and
- Redesignating already undesignated lands rather than breaking rural reserve protections

SB 1586 is a solution in search of a problem. It sacrifices long-term community values for short-term speculative interest. **Data centers also do not form jobs. They take jobs in the long run, so it will be a net negative for our community.** I urge you to vote NO on Senate Bill 1586.

Sincerely,

Cora Leung