

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

As of today, the outskirts of Hillsboro are an industrial mess. Amazon warehouses, data centers, chip manufacturing. All polluting industries which do little to actually increase employment in the Hillsboro area.

Our air is easily the worst in the region. The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality has yet to enforce the Clean Air Act of Oregon on the existing semi-conductor plants nearby. Intel is not scheduled to be looked at for at least another year. Yet, you want to build new industry without the ability to regulate the pollutants they are leaving in our environment. This is the legacy this bill will create.

I think it is shortsighted to just speed through this process, which it seems like you are doing. Putting the bill through a finance committee and trying to jam it through before the public has a chance to know what has happened.

Once this land is paved over it is useless for other projects. Intel is on the outs, and laid off workers recently. Data centers are becoming a huge problem, environmentally and socially, and the impact on the economics of the region are mixed at best - horrible at worst. Our skyline is covered in industrial power lines that residential users are paying the price for already. Land on the outskirts of Hillsboro is currently being paved over after people were just kicked out of their homes. Yet, here we are before this land is even done being dug up trying to open more land. And again without public support and despite this same land being closed to development over and over and over again.

I know data centers are on the list of industries not allowed to build there, but what new and temporary hot industry will take its place and be open to build there?

This land is vital to our future, not as concrete but as a place to grow food and claim the ecosystem services that rural land can provide. Do we want our town to be an industrial wasteland? A deposit for an industries pollution?

You say this will create jobs but there is no evidence to back this up. It is only a hope and if you are wrong you just gave up everything for nothing. I don't think it is fair to gamble away our future like that.

You cannot keep choosing the economy over the environment and expect things to work out. What about our current situation implies that climate change or environmental pollution will get better without our help? Why are we speeding up a

process that can ultimately destroy us?

So developers can make money? So an industry can lay their environmental burden on our town? For the promise of jobs that people may not be trained for and which may ultimately never arrive?

I don't see the point. I see a knee-jerk reaction to a problem which has little to do with jobs in the region and more to do with the way our country is operated, and the fact that corporations already have more power than they need. If you want to address the real economic needs in this region you would do better to address income inequality and corporate greed.

I wish you would rethink this. We are selling out our future, trading land for pollution and a promise that may never be realized - and based on recent development in Hillsboro will not be realized.

Thank you for your attention to this matter,

Mike McTernan