

Submitter: Austin Sumpter

Committee: Senate Committee on Finance and Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic: Opposition to Senate Bill 1586

Chair Broadman, Vice-Chair McLane, members of the Senate Committee on Finance and Revenue,

My name is Austin Sumpter. I live in the outskirts of Canby in rural Clackamas County, Oregon, specifically in Senate District 26 and House District 51. I testify today to express my opposition to Senate Bill 1586, another proposal to take up farmland in Washington County and include it in Hillsboro's urban growth boundary (UGB) without public involvement.

What's the opposite of a good idea that's gone too soon? It's a bad idea that refuses to die. As far as the state of Oregon is concerned, that is this kind of proposal, which is now bringing this issue up for the sixth time. The land being targeted for absorption into Hillsboro's UGB is some of the most valued agricultural land in Oregon, totaling 1,700 acres at that. Back in 2014, Hillsboro received over 1,000 acres of land – land that should've made for an ample 50-year supply. Yet the city has instead burned through that allotment about as quickly as Big Tech has been exploding, not to mention other kinds of uses like retail and recreation. Data centers have almost nothing to offer communities beyond the short-term construction boom. They provide few jobs with relatively low pay, while also consuming huge volumes of water and straining power grids in their operations. And with the federal government planning to gut Section 401 of the *Clean Water Act*, should we really be springing for more data centers?

Furthermore, the bill would provide more tax breaks for Big Tech companies that are already super wealthy. That's money that could go into helping support public schools, rural hospitals, housing projects, wildfire resilience, and other, more important projects. We must not lose sight of the rest of the state in this bill. The core focus on Hillsboro would further diminish lands and communities around the state. And the split nature among the Metro Council over talk about a potential amendment fails to remedy the bigger problems the bill creates.

No more handouts for data centers, whether in land or in tax breaks. Please do your duty to the people of Oregon and oppose this bad bill.