

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

I'm writing today as a frustrated Hillsboro resident to ask you to vote NO on SB 1586. This bill isn't about "progress" for our community—it's a massive giveaway of our protected Rural Reserve land to data center developers who give us almost nothing in return.

Here is why this bill is a bad deal for Oregonians:

1. Data centers aren't the job engine we were promised.

We've spent decades leaning on Intel, but as we've seen over the last years, Intel isn't "thriving" anymore. With thousands of layoffs hitting our neighbors, we desperately need to diversify our economy. Paving over 1,700 acres for data centers is a dead end. Once these massive buildings are up, they only employ a handful of people. We need infrastructure that supports long-term, diverse employment—not 1,700 acres of humming server racks that don't hire our displaced tech workers.

2. We are running out of water.

Look at the rain gauge. As of mid-February, we're sitting at about 5.68 inches for the year—way below our usual 7.14-inch average. It's been a dry, scary start to 2026. While the City of Hillsboro is hiking our water rates (some of us are seeing nearly a 10% jump this year), SB 1586 wants to invite "thirsty" data centers that suck up millions of gallons a day for cooling. It's a slap in the face to ask residents to conserve while handing a straw to tech giants.

3. Our electricity bills are already out of control.

My power bill—and my neighbors' bills—are hitting record highs. These rate hikes are directly tied to the "grid modernization" needed to support the massive energy demands of these data centers. We are essentially subsidizing the utility costs of billion-dollar companies while Oregon families struggle to keep the lights on.

4. Breaking the "Grand Bargain."

This land was designated as a Rural Reserve for a reason. It's some of the best farmland in the world. We were told this land would be protected in exchange for previous expansions, yet here we are again.

Hillsboro needs an economy that can stand on its own feet when Intel can't. We need to protect our water and our wallets. SB 1586 does the opposite.

Please, listen to the people living here, not the lobbyists. Please vote NO on SB

