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Opposition to SB 1586

SB 1586 Is an affront to Oregon's long held Land Use Process

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Honorable Members of the Oregon Senate Interim Committee on Finance and Revenue:

SB 1586 is a direct attack on Oregon's Land Use laws and processes, and the 2014 HB 4078 bill which corrected Washington County's **mis-application of the principles of SB 1011**. Worse yet, as recently as 2024 Washington County declined to request an urban growth boundary expansion because there was NO NEED for additional industrial land because they had more than 5000 acres of available **ready to build on the 20 year supply of land that can support high wage jobs with infrastructure already in place and or planned**.

The Sponsors and supporters of SB 1586 are once again seeking the re-designation of 1,700 acres of rural reserves land (containing identified high value farmland) in Washington County to urban reserves. The promised goal appears to be for more high value jobs for Oregon's citizens via new Data Centers and something called AI factories. To be clear an AI factory is just a data center that is designed specifically for AI-specific servers. It is NOT a factory in any sense of the word. The promised high value jobs do NOT exist at AI Factories. Those high value jobs do exist, but far away at research headquarters in other States or even other countries. All data centers, including AI factories are simply windowless huge buildings filled with servers. The only jobs available for Oregonians in such facilities are maintenance jobs, a few janitors, cooling system techs, and a few computer techs, few if any will be earning the promised high value wages.

SB 1586 appears to be supporting a blatant land grab by speculators and lobbyists who are dangling vast amounts of money for land owners to gain access to land, with large Oregon tax breaks and NO infrastructure. What SB 1586 will achieve appears to be destroying our high value farmland economy while creating an industrial ghetto with large windowless buildings, staffed by relatively few low wage earners, consuming vast amounts of electricity and water, driving up utility costs for Oregonians who will face ever increasing taxes to pay for the required new infrastructure, including new wide roads for very few vehicles.

Stop the frantic rush to judgement on a flawed bill and **Please vote "No" on SB 1586**.