

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

The so-called JOBS Act, is a giveaway to industries with no return for our communities. The beneficiaries of this corporate welfare are big tech and only big tech. The results of such tax credits: 191 school districts and education service districts in Oregon collectively lost \$275 million to property tax abatements in 2024, according to Good Jobs First, a nonprofit watchdog group.

These expanded tax credits are quite generous, but the real giveaway is in the last four pages of the bill, where 1,700 acres of land are designated to be within Metro's Urban Growth Boundary. Rezoning this land from its current designation as Rural Reserve would allow its sale to developers by landowners for industrial use, which would almost certainly be data centers and related industries. The County and the City have already indicated their desire to rezone this land; only the Legislature is now our only hope for saving this land for our communities' benefit rather than handing it over to big tech to exploit.

The consequences of rezoning this land would result, in short order, of the sale of much of that land to developers who would court data centers and other industries to the area. Any farmers remaining on parcels would be unable to continue farming due to the dramatic impact that the construction and operation of data centers would cause. Electric rates would spike further due to the need for PGE and other utilities to invest in new capital infrastructure to serve these data centers with enormous amounts of power. 1,700 acres of some of the best farmland of the world would be rendered sterile. Local water sources would become too polluted to use for irrigation, possibly affecting farmers outside of the rezoning boundary. And Hillsboro would be on the hook for millions in additional property tax breaks in the short-term, adding to the school funding crisis alluded to earlier. There are many other issues that would result, but these are the most obvious.

Senate Bill 1586 must be opposed if we are to remain locally resilient in the face of climate change. We cannot add more load to our grid, take away our farmland, and lose potential tax revenue through corporate welfare tax breaks.

Please vote NO on this bill.