

Submitter: Makenzie Curtis-Johnson

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1586

It's not enough simply to say "jobs" and expect that to pacify the public when it comes to dirty land grabs like this. Which specific companies are lined up to use this land? What type of jobs will they offer? How well paid, with what benefits? How many jobs? For who? And for how long? The tech sector has recently proven itself quite willing to shed human workers in favor of robots and AI whenever and wherever possible, in service to the all-consuming pursuit of efficiency and profit. We're currently in the middle of an enormous AI bubble that is going to pop with devastating economic consequences. Can you prove that the nebulous job growth related to the rapidly automating industry of semiconductor fabrication will be worth the many negative externalities already enumerated by Hillsboro residents in their testimony opposing this bill? What is even the point of designating rural reserve land if that agreement can simply be broken at any time? How can we trust in that provision not to build data centers on this land when it's clear that legislators have no interest in keeping their word? Why does the state of Oregon have such a regressive tax system, continuously offering these tax credits and subsidies to big business while the tax burden on working class families remains so high? What on earth will Oregonians do after we develop all of our high quality farm land or ruin it with unsustainable agricultural practices? These are questions that need answers, and they are not being answered by the supporters of this bill.