

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

I live in the rural area just south of Hillsboro and am a life-long resident of Oregon. I oppose SB 1586 and urge you to vote against it. Destroying more of Oregon's farmland is causing irreversible harm to our state, our agriculture, our environment, and our health. Our farm and forest land is disappearing dramatically, and once it's gone, it's gone forever. Our Willamette Valley has some of the best soil in the world - what a shame to put industrial factories on top of it. We have plenty of land already inside the urban growth boundary that is more suitable for high-tech manufacturing; use that instead.

The language of this bill and the sound bites I've heard from politicians in favor of it are intentionally deceiving. I'm referring to when it is said that no "stand-alone data centers" would be allowed. What that tells me is that as long as they are attached to anything, data centers most certainly are allowed. I have seen my electric rates skyrocket since data centers have been pouring into our area. In addition to using tons of power and forcing PGE to have to "buy energy on the open market" which makes all of our electricity bills increase, they also use enormous amounts of water. Power and water are two resources we cannot afford to keep squandering. Data centers provide very few jobs - certainly not enough to justify the amount of resources they consume and the cost increases to the rest of us. They also don't provide tax revenue; the fact that they are given tax breaks is just insult to injury. Other states are cutting or reassessing their tax breaks to these industries - why isn't Oregon? Their tax breaks means more of the tax burden falls on all of us homeowners to subsidize these giant, profiteering, polluting industries.

You work for the PEOPLE of Oregon - not industry. The people do not want this. I strongly urge you to kill this bill.