

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

Good morning:

I wish to submit my letter of opposition to Senate Bill 1586.

I am a life-long resident of Washington County, and am currently witnessing what could be one of the worst land grabs in our county's history, only to potentially get worse if we do not act.

My parents first resided in Hillsboro since the 1960's and then in rural North Plains for over 40 years after that. Up until now, the area north of Hillsboro's urban boundary have been one of the area's last serene and untouched swaths of beautiful and rich farmland.

The stretch of land between NW Jackson School Road to NW Brookwood Parkway is currently under construction, littering our precious farmland with more energy-sucking data centers. I literally cried the last time I drove NW Jackson School Road, and witnessed what was once the 'Tulip Farm' that stood for generations, now plowed down and littered with giant bulldozers and pop-up manufactured construction trailers.

This is some of our last and richest farmland in Washington County, and the surrounding 1,700 acres areas veering around it and north towards rural North Plains, is the potential next victim.

Corporate greed and a few landowners and lobbyists standing to make millions is fueling this land grab. It has already been proven to be totally unnecessary, as the city of Hillsboro already has an abundance of properly zoned industrial lands that could be used instead.

1. The public deserves to be fully aware of what is being proposed and at the very least be able to voice their opinions in the form of a county-wide vote.
2. These data centers provide very few jobs to our community, yet take up HUGE areas of space and rob our natural resources.
3. The expense of running these data centers will ultimately fall on the residents of Washington County in the form of rising Property taxes.

We are already paying way higher utility rates for our electricity and water since these data centers began surfacing in our community a few years ago.

4. There are plenty of already-zoned industrial land these companies could use

instead for these deemed "necessary" data centers. The city needs to listen to the their citizens and realize the livability of this county is at stake.

Hillsboro is already almost 'unrecognizable' to what it was even 5 years ago. I cannot imagine what it will look like in another 5 or 10 years if this type of land encroachment keeps happening.

I find myself not wanting to call my 'home town of Hillsboro' my home town any longer.

For the first time, I am seriously looking elsewhere in the state that is more affordable and still has a quiet hometown feel, the same kind that Hillsboro used to have.

Thank you for your time.