

Testimony

TO: House Committee on Revenue

RE: Opposition to HB: 4084A

From: Ron Bunch

I am writing to urge you to end Oregon's property tax breaks for data centers. The state should not provide big tech and private equity firms tax breaks to build what they would anyway. Furthermore Oregon must require measures to ensure data centers and related development completely mitigate the harms they present to Oregon's environments and community.

These include:

- Massive water and energy usage that drives up utility costs and decreases clean water for agriculture, fish and wildlife and overall health of natural systems. These impacts will grow as climate change progresses.
- The use of valuable industrial land for low density employment uses, which decreases the potential for overall economic health and social resilience of communities.
- Development of immense and completely out of scale projects often accompanied by incessant noise disruptive of community quality of life.
- The prospect that data centers and artificial intelligence may be an economic "bubble" that if burst will lead to economic and social hardship. Public subsidies like what Oregon provides would make these corporate tax breaks even more consequential for Oregon citizens and communities if AI fails to live up to its hype/.

Our communities can't afford to continue to subsidize data centers that cost so much in terms of utilities, have such large impacts on communities but give so little back. This year alone they are receiving \$457 million in property tax breaks in Oregon while at the same time the state and many cities don't have enough revenue to maintain basic services.

As a taxpayer payer this is personal for me and my family. We pay our taxes and are faced with ongoing rising costs and evidence of inadequate services to support our communities. Why, in view of this has Oregon's politicians decided that big and extremely wealthy corporations like Black Rock, Meta, Apple, Amazon, etc. should be subsidized?

Please do the commonsense thing and amend HB 4084 and make data centers no longer eligible for property tax breaks.

Thank you,

Ron Bunch,

Portland Oregon

