

Submitter: Amy Johnson

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1586

I am opposed to the expansion of tax credits/breaks for businesses at a time when our communities are facing budget crises for even basic services like education.

Moreover the bill would 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.

Data centers drive up energy prices, are water intensive, pollute the environment, and are not a good use of lands. We need to continue to have land set aside for use for agriculture. And land brought into urban areas should be used to address housing affordability crises rather than encouraging destructive, extractive industries. Other states have begun to take action to reduce expansion of data centers which do not provide a net benefit to our communities. Additionally the risk of fire at a data center needs to be considered. The standard fire fighting practices are not enough. Hillsboro, where thus expansion would take place, would need to add data center specific considerations into its community wildfire protection plan which is new or forthcoming at the time of writing.