

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

Chair Broadman, members of the committee,

For the record, I urge you to vote no on SB 1586. I work in the semiconductor industry in silicon forest region and recognize the economic impact that semiconductors and technology market has had in this area. This impact is not a viable reason to offer up irreplaceable ecological resources, especially when the effects on the people who live in this area are largely negatively impacted.

- Data Centers: The bill has a loophole that would allow almost unlimited data centers as long as they're "attached" to another business. Data centers don't produce jobs or tax revenue and are shown in many other cities to cause harm to residents and the surrounding region. Data centers in general require staggering amounts of energy in order to function – this places increased demands on the regional grid and increases the prices of energy for residents in the region by as much as 267% in some cases [Bloomberg]. The energy demands occur alongside the water demands with large data centers requiring up to 5 million gallons per a day to cool the servers [EESI] – this will need to come from local resources, placing increased demands on the rivers and aquifers. Data centers also provide a dismal return on creating new jobs per/sqft of real estate – bringing little employment opportunities for the same people that now will have demands on their energy, water, and ecological resources. This is not a beneficial way forward for the people of Hillsboro/surrounding areas.

- Agricultural Priority: Taking this land irreparably harms another industry – agriculture. Agriculture depends on soil, and this land has some of the best in the world. The Willamette river basin is known for great soil and growing conditions, formed over millions of years. Losing this land to industrial purposes means the loss of these benefits and irreparable harm for Washington counties and Oregon's agricultural industry. The state of Oregon has maintained a strong policy to maintain the limited supply of agricultural land, and this bill directly conflicts with those priorities.

- Expensive: The people would bear the costs of this sprawl. Hillsboro hasn't shown detailed figures, but even their document shows they won't break even for 34 years. While we've heard that the bill may be amended to remove a provision that would double the tax break to businesses including data centers, another bill this session would extend a similar tax break. Other states are cutting or reassessing their tax breaks to these industries. We should not be using our tax dollars to incentivize low-job industries that waste our energy and natural resources and are profitable on their own – especially when we're in a budget crisis.

For these reasons and more, please vote no on SB 1586

Thank you.