

Submitter: Katelyn Oldham
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1586
February 16, 2026

RE: Opposition to SB 1586

Dear Committee,

I live in unincorporated Washington County in the Cedar Mill area. I am writing in opposition to further land grabs that permit or contribute to the spread of data centers, and legislation that provides massive tax breaks with no clear return in the form of jobs. I have three primary concerns (1) the well-documented increase in costs to electricity and the untenable water requirements that negatively affect surrounding communities, (2) the inappropriate tax incentives when we are facing a budget crisis in Oregon and there is no clear return on value or needed conditions on development, and (3) the well-documented and negative effect on the environment and health of communities (including people) sharing space with data centers and similar developments.

I am also shocked the legislature would even consider legislation that would allow for the destruction of good farmland for something that will not guarantee any return on jobs, will lead to pollution, and will have a net negative on energy consumption. I love the farms in Hillsboro and note that there are already many, many tech development sites in the city and its surroundings, as well. While the tech industry is an important component for Oregon, these land resources are precious and should not be so thoughtlessly and carelessly squandered. We must be mindful of "how" we are developing our state, not simply throw massive tax breaks at vacant land and write a few vague requirements into the law that won't do anything to stop a huge data center from being placed on our grid, burdening our system and raising costs for everyone while polluting the land.

I strongly oppose this senate bill. If anything, we should be focused on supporting and building moderate-cost housing and on our existing infrastructure and schools. This is the wrong bill and the wrong time for it.

Sincerely,

Katelyn Oldham