

Submitter: Carmen Smith
On Behalf Of: My family who lives on this farmland.
Committee: Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1586

Building large data centers on farmland near Hillsboro will cause lasting harm to both communities and food systems. Farmland is a limited and essential resource that supports local food production, economic stability, and environmental health. Once fertile agricultural land is paved over for industrial use, it is rarely restored, permanently reducing a region's ability to grow food and remain self-sufficient. In addition, many farming families have lived and worked on their land for generations, and forcing them to relocate not only disrupts livelihoods but also erodes cultural heritage and community identity. Large-scale data centers and semiconductor facilities require enormous amounts of electricity and water to operate and cool equipment, which can strain local infrastructure. This increased demand often contributes to higher utility costs for surrounding residents and may place pressure on already limited water supplies. Protecting farmland for farming preserves food security, safeguards multigenerational communities, and helps ensure that essential resources like water and electricity remain affordable and accessible for local households.

I am against SB 1586!