

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

I believe that this bill should not move forward as it is a Trojan horse to allow more data centers to be developed in an area that could provide housing and would instead drain valuable resources like water and increase electricity costs for local residents. Oregon failed previously to attract a semiconductor manufacturing plant, and I can't see why a company would invest over a billion dollars to develop a plant near a known fault line, thus opening the door for data centers to fill the space. We already have evidence that utility companies are passing along the energy prices from these data centers to the public (<https://www.opb.org/article/2025/12/15/utility-watchdogs-accuse-pge-of-skirting-new-law-meant-to-make-data-centers-pay-for-rising-demand/>). Oregon also has a history of kowtowing to major corporations more lenient tax break requests (i.e Nike and Intel) out of fear of them threatening to move headquarters, so I don't trust the state to hold strong on preventing data center development. As a lifelong Oregonian who has enjoyed the drive from Portland to the coast and back many times, it would be a shame to lose the transition space from the Portland metro area to the agricultural and natural spaces west of the urban growth boundary, and instead to have large, ugly humming buildings with hardly any employees. Please do not move forward with this bill and vote no.