

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

To Chair Broadman, Vice-Chair McLane, and Committee on Finance and Revenue

I'm writing to STRONGLY urge you to OPPOSE SB 1586, which extends tax breaks to data centers and brings in acres of farmland into the Hillsboro Urban Growth Boundary.

Our state is facing a budget shortfall, and people all over the state are suffering from an affordability crisis preventing them from being able to attain even the basic essentials of life. One of these, of course, is their electricity. By providing tax breaks and other incentives to those who construct data centers in our state, we are only making this crisis worse.

Data centers provide uncertain benefits and clear, demonstrated harms. They are not job creators. Instead, they make big tech, private equity firms, and a few local insiders a lot of money. In exchange, centers siphoning water, take up land (often valuable farmland in our state), create noise and light pollution, and hike our electric bills.

Not only that, I'm concerned that providing tax breaks to giant corporations and wealthy investors deprives our schools and local budgets of much-needed tax revenue!

Our communities can't afford to continue to build and subsidize data centers that take so much and give so little. This year alone they are receiving \$457 million in property tax breaks in Oregon.

As a taxpayer, I'd much rather my tax dollar goes to helping my fellow citizens that need it, rather than line the pockets of those who take advantage of our communities.

Please kill SB 1586, which extends tax breaks to tech and furthers development of harmful data centers. Corporations and private equity firms like BlackRock will continue to build in Oregon as long as we let them. Our state deserves to define the terms! Even without these property tax breaks we'll still be providing a better tax environment than either of our neighboring west coast states.

Thank you,

Dr. Maximo Menchaca
Portland, OR