

I am writing in strong opposition to Senate Bill 1586 and urge you to carefully reconsider its current provisions before moving forward. While I understand the intent to encourage business growth in the Portland Metro area, the use of tax breaks as outlined in this bill is not the right approach. I would strongly encourage you to explore and pursue alternative economic incentives that can attract and retain businesses without placing undue burdens on our community.

Of particular concern is the language in this bill that leaves the door open for corporations to establish AI data centers in the Portland Metro area. As a young constituent who will live with the long-term consequences of today's policy decisions, I am deeply troubled by the unchecked and rapid expansion of artificial intelligence infrastructure that we have witnessed in recent years. This is not a distant or abstract threat, as the effects are already being felt in communities across the country, and we cannot afford to invite those same consequences here.

AI data centers are extraordinarily resource-intensive operations. They place a massive and well-documented strain on local water supplies, energy grids, and other natural resources. Communities located near these facilities have reported serious health concerns, and the enormous energy demands of these centers often translate directly into higher utility costs for local residents and taxpayers, costs that disproportionately affect working families and those on fixed incomes. These are not acceptable trade-offs for the sake of attracting corporate investment.

I respectfully but urgently urge you to revisit SB 1586 and revise it to explicitly close the door on AI data center development in our region. Our environment, our public health, and the long-term wellbeing of Portland's residents deserve stronger protections than this bill currently provides.

Thank you for your time.

Katherine Borek
Oregon Voter - Portland, OR