

Submitter: Zoe Serrano

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1586

Dear Chair Broadman, Vice Chair McLane, and members of the committee,

I am writing to urge you to oppose SB 1586, which would open protected land in Washington County to industrial development.

Oregon needs smart, coordinated, statewide economic development but this bill moves us in the opposite direction. Concentrating industrial development in one county while ignoring opportunities across the rest of the state harms Oregon's economy and leaves other counties behind.

We know that this expansion will be used to expand data center growth. We are already seeing drastically increasing energy prices due to these large users in our county, and this will only get worse if we continue to make Oregon a state that prioritizes corporations over people. While data centers create some short term jobs, they employ very few people once operating. With data centers getting tax breaks, residents in Washington County see very few, if any, benefits from the intended 'economic development'.

The lands targeted by this bill include Class 1 and Class 2 soils, some of the most productive farmland in the world. Once these lands are converted, they are gone forever. The Legislature made a clear commitment to keep these lands in agricultural production until at least 2065, and that line must hold.

We should instead be investing in:

- Industrial land readiness within existing urban growth boundaries
- A statewide industrial lands inventory and economic development strategy
- Education, workforce development, childcare, and housing
- Climate jobs and sustainable industries
- Protecting and stabilizing the good jobs that already exist

Please oppose this bill and stand up for Oregon's farmland, workers, and long-term economic health.

Thank you for your time and consideration.