

- To: Senate Committee on Finance and Revenue
- Subject: Comments on SB 1586
- February 17, 2026
- Chair Broadman, Vice-Chair McLane, Committee Members:
- I am Dr. Theodora Tsongas, an environmental health scientist with a career in public health. I am a member of Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility and the American Public Health Association. I urge you to vote NO on Senate Bill 1586, the semiconductor funding bill.
- 1. The legislative process has not given the public, especially affected communities, adequate and meaningful participation in the development of this bill, so concerns of local communities that would have to pay for these projects and live with their side effects are not considered.
- 2. There appears to be no consideration of the adverse impacts of this industry on water, air, land, and land use. The semiconductor industry and data centers have huge water requirements, while we have impending serious drought conditions and existing clean water shortages.
- 3. The semiconductor industry has a history of water, air, and land contamination with no clear plans for how that will be avoided other than to say 'we are working on it.' In addition, the process requires the use and production of toxic chemicals, including nitrogen oxides, particulates, fluorides, sulfuric acid, cyclohexane as well as perfluoro- and polyfluoroalkyl substances or PFAS, with known health effects: cancer, effects on pregnancy and development, reproductive toxins, lung and kidney damage and effects on the central nervous system. So-called clean rooms protect the chips but do not protect employees or the surrounding communities from exposure to toxic chemical ingredients and byproducts, resulting in adverse effects on health. Keeping toxic chemicals out of air and water, and disposal of wastes is still a problem for this industry and would cost the affected communities.
- 4. The bill has a loophole that would allow unlimited data centers as long as they're "attached" to another business. Data centers don't produce jobs or tax revenue. They also have serious adverse impacts on the environment that are costly: they use and pollute precious water supplies when we are feeling the effects of climate disruption and the state has little snowpack, thus an impending drought. Furthermore, more and more evidence is

accumulating that data centers are disrupting livability of communities with constant noise and vibrations that disrupt sleep, work, and life, as well as destroying property values.

- 5. Setting up enterprise zones on some of the best farmland in the world is just plain dumb. This valuable farmland cannot be considered a “regionally significant industrial site”. This would destroy the best use of the land that we have. We are very fortunate in Oregon to have benefitted from the glacial Missoula floods that distributed some of the best topsoil in the world. It forms the foundation of our very high value agricultural production. And, it cannot be replaced! Why would a sane person want to destroy any part of this valuable asset? (There is a lot to be said about the best agricultural produce, and resulting food, in the country!)
- 6. Why the semiconductor industry should be given tax breaks during a State budget shortfall is beyond comprehension when the public is concerned about how we are going to fund vital programs like housing, education, child care, and health care, for example. Other states are cutting or reassessing their tax breaks to these industries. We should not be using our tax dollars to incentivize low-job industries that waste our energy and natural resources and are profitable on their own.
- 7. The semiconductor industry has and will continue to generate excessive amounts of green house gases, adding to the State’s inability to meet climate goals. We are already at the tipping point, 1.5 degrees celsius, beyond which heating of the earth accelerates. Allowing increases in emissions of greenhouse gases, and in fact, subsidizing their production, will only reduce our ability to respond effectively to the effects of climate disruption (excess heat, drought, storms, wildfires, floods, changes in the distribution of disease causing agents, etc.) reducing the livability and productivity of our State, and increasing costs for everyone.

With no safeguards against costs and threats to life and health that would be included in this plan, we simply cannot afford, nor can we rationalize, a windfall for the semiconductor industry. It is just a losing proposition for our State. Please VOTE NO on SB 1586.

Thank you for your time and attention to these concerns.

