

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

Chair Broadman, Vice Chair McLain and members of the committee,

My name is Thomas Karwaki and I am a retired economic development director living in Portland.

I oppose Amendment -4 posted on February 18 to SB 1586 and the entire bill. I agree with the testimony of Andrea Kreiner on behalf of the Oregon Association of Conservation Districts. There has been no demonstration that the land is needed for industrial uses, nor has there been any public hearings on the project and the impact on the infrastructure needed. This violates the land use process that Oregon has set up to preserve important lands (class 1 and 2 soils) for agricultural purposes - and particularly those in Urban Reserves which are supposed to be protected until 2065. The lands in Amendment -4 are so classified.

I also agree with the testimony of the Tualatin Soil and Water Conservation District and Cassie Wilson of the 1000 Friends of Oregon. This bill sacrifices incredibly important soil for a data center that does not benefit any Oregonian outside of Hillsboro. It ignores the economic development needs of other Oregon communities facing similar constraints as Hillsboro.

For these reasons, I urge the committee to vote NO to this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this bill.