

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

Hello,

I am writing as a lifelong Oregon resident who is strongly, inextricably opposed to this bill - SB1586, "Modifies the tax credit allowed for semiconductor research".

As we face a climate crisis and a looming agricultural collapse in the United States, I find it abhorrent that the Oregon State legislature is taking money from and putting the desires of exploitative tech corporations ahead of Oregonians. According to BloombergNEF (BNEF), power demand from data centers is set to double by 2035. Data centers already account for 33% of total power consumption in Oregon, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration. Bloomberg noted, "Monthly electricity rates in major data center areas are up to 267% higher than five years ago," adding that the AI boom's impact on the power market is unprecedented." "Oregon residential customers are paying 400% (4 Times) more for power than data centers do", per the Hillsboro Herald (2025).

While these tech companies get tax breaks and sweetheart deals from the government, with promises of "boosting the state's economy", what Oregonians really end up seeing is environmental destruction and increased cost of living. Per the Associated Press, "The Oregon Citizens' Utility Board says there is clear evidence that costs to serve data centers are being spread across all customers — at a time when some electric bills there are up 50% over the past four years and utilities are disconnecting more people than ever." It is troubling and should infuriate Oregonians that we're footing the bill for these companies that pay little to no taxes while raking in billions of dollars in profits to no benefit to the people they ultimately harm. We have seen data centers around the world worsening droughts, draining water reservoirs, leading to water rationing, crop failure, and leaving residents without drinking water (See: Microsoft data centers in Mexico). Even here in our state, The Dalles city government is seeking extra water supplies from the Mt Hood forest to feed Google's parasitic data center(a).

Rather than continuing to hand over Oregon's valuable land and resources to exploitative billionaires and tech companies, lawmakers should be working with communities to preserve Oregon farm land and support our economy from within. Stop turning our state into one giant data center - effectively destroying our environment, draining our resources and contributing to the climate crisis - worsening the water crisis in particular, and kicking the costs to Oregonians via their electricity bills and taxes under the guise of "job creation" and "economic growth".

Vote no on this bill.