

Submitter: Laura Allen

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On  
Capital Construction

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4084

Dear Co-Chairs Sen. Girod and Rep. Nosse and Members of the Subcommittee on  
Capital Construction,

I am writing in opposition to HB 4084. It is an appallingly huge tax giveaway for data centers and crypto mining. It makes no sense for Oregon to give such long term property tax exemptions to businesses like this that don't create good, stable jobs; these exemptions will leave local communities with even less funds for schools, public safety, health care, transportation, roads, libraries, and the like. (Communities certainly can't count on state funds given the massive shortfall because of H.R. 1). This is just a recipe for worse income inequality than we already have particularly in our rural areas.

Data centers, in particular, use massive amounts of water; they use electricity in such quantities that they will produce significant CO2 emissions, undermining our state's efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Why are we threatening our own water supply and air quality for industries that will create no real jobs and rip a hole in our local governments' budgets?

There is also no need to lure data centers and crypto mining to Oregon with this bill. They are already here. They are happy to take advantage of our lack of a sales tax and the access to the international internet cables we have here. In fact, other states are moving away from such tax giveaways to data centers and crypto mining. They see the problems this will cause for local governments and folks in those communities and for the water supply and air quality.

This subcommittee should at the least adopt the -21 amendment that will stop data centers and crypto mining from getting new enterprise zone property tax exemptions.

Also, there is no need to extend the time of the property tax exemptions otherwise. You have seen testimony from tax and revenue experts that establish there is no economic benefit to these extensions. They are simply giveaways that will put a bigger hole in our revenues.

Thank you.  
Laura Allen

