

Submitter: Deborah Ferrer

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4084

Co-Chair Girod, Co-Chair Nosse, Members of the JW&M Subcommittee on Capital Construction:

I strongly oppose the HB 4084 "Prosperity Bill" as written. It seems to provide plenty of prosperity for Data Centers, but much less for ordinary Oregonians.

I don't believe that Data Centers should get huge property tax breaks in Oregon. I live in The Dalles, Oregon, where the fifth Google Data Center is about to go online. These data centers have been extremely controversial in our community primarily because of the huge tax breaks they have gotten over the years, the amount of water and energy they consume, and the fact that they never delivered on the promise of hundreds of new high-paying jobs.

They also get a tax break by coming here because we don't have a sales tax. They have to regularly upgrade their servers and don't have to pay sales tax on that nor on construction materials. They already have access to the international internet cables that encourage them to locate here.

To address this, I encourage you to vote for the -21 amendment which will stop all Data Centers and Crypto mining centers from getting new enterprise zone property tax exemptions on property and machinery and equipment. These exemptions don't just harm the local area by reducing school, fire, library, and other local funding. Most school districts are given general funds to back fill their school budget, including Hillsboro. We still have a huge hole in our Revenue Budget this year which will get worse next year.

The -24 amendment is a distant second choice to place a moratorium on data centers applications for extensions or new tax exemptions for one year.

I don't think that any enterprise areas need to extend the duration of time of the property tax at all. We are, after all, talking about some of the wealthiest corporations in the world. When will politicians start holding them accountable for paying their fair share. We need that funding to conserve our meager revenue to fund a whole host of services for ordinary Oregonians who are tired of carrying more than their fair share of the state's tax burden.

We've seen numerous bills fail this session for lack of funding. Please don't let more

revenue slip away.

Thanks for your service in the legislature.

Deborah Ferrer
The Dalles, OR