

Submitter: Emily Waldron

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4084

Why are we sacrificing the future of our children for the interests of present businessmen?

1) Oregon is in the bottom 10 for preK-12 school systems. Our schools have lost out on over a billion dollars due to the tax breaks in these economic enterprise zones, and for what? Our children have some of the worst literacy rates in the nation, we have sky-high truancy rates, and our graduation rates are abysmal. Oregonians have been sacrificing our children for these economic breaks and for what? So Intel can go and lay off thousands of workers? So data centers can hire 12 people while earning billions for out-of-state oligarchs? The money is not making its way back to our schools!

2) There is no guarantee that these tax breaks will not extend to data centers starting in 2028. Data centers DO NOT provide enough of an economic improvement to make up for the loss of money to our state's education system. Further, any data center currently "in planning" would benefit from this extension, and Oregon has 8,500+ acres of planned data centers as of this week. Why are we giving them greater tax breaks for the next decade?! We will have more in Eastern Oregon than the entire state of Virginia! And they won't be paying for our schools or our environmental programs or any of the initiatives to better our communities and address mental health, addictions, and homelessness.

3) We have yet to see a specific number of jobs that must be provided to receive these breaks, and the bill itself gives a loophole that another metric besides jobs can be used to re-certify a company for continued tax breaks. What would happen if we placed a financial limit of how much a company can earn before the tax breaks end because they are profitable enough? Our communities need this funding to be successful!

Please vote against this bill. We can always pass something in the future that permanently prohibits data centers. The moratorium in this specific bill is not sufficient and will mean that our children will continue to pay the price large corporations won't.