



City of Prineville

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February 10, 2015

Senate Committee on Finance and Revenue
Attn: Senator Mark Haas, Chair
Salem, OR 97301

RE: SB 570-1 and SB571-1

Dear Senator Haas and Committee Members

Thank you for this opportunity to submit written comments in support of these bills.

The City of Prineville strongly disagrees with the comments shared thus far that cast Senate Bill 570-1 and Senate Bill 571-1 in a negative light.

In Prineville/Crook County the data center industry has made significant investment and provided much needed family wage jobs. Crook County has had unfortunate distinction of the highest unemployment in the state through the great recession, and just recently with a major layoff of one of our area's largest secondary forest products company laying off 200 workers, has regained the unemployment title. I cannot imagine what our county's unemployment would be today if the data centers had not been successfully recruited. Today Facebook has approximately 120 direct employee's, with many additional ancillary jobs to support, such as security, HVAC, Landscaping, Fasteners, etc. Not unlike years ago when Sawmills drove our economy, and all the ancillary jobs that were attached to and depended on sawmills, such as truck drivers, loggers, lubricants, etc.

Our state enjoys the attributes for data center development. From the high tech clusters in the Portland metro area, to the climate advantages in eastern Oregon, the data center industry has embraced our State as a premier place to do business. As we heard from industry representatives at a recent public hearing in Salem, there are 88 data centers in Oregon. As our U.S. economy moves into the future, the need for continued data storage through the cloud, and the movement to offsite servers, indicates the data center industry is instrumental in the economy's improvement.

Data center companies need predictability and certainty to continue to invest in Oregon. As the City of Prineville negotiated to secure our data centers, it was very apparent the state to state competition is fierce. Data center companies have a host of options in other states. Let's not allow Oregon to compromise its ability to recruit and develop the data center industry into a foundational economic driver of Oregon's economy.

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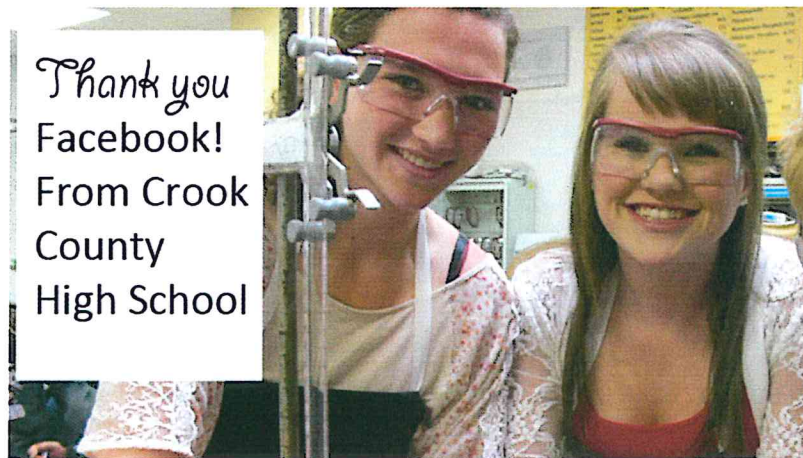
The City of Prineville has a long standing very positive relationship with several data center operators (Facebook and Project Pillar).

The City would like you to be aware that the data centers in our community have been great community partners in several very important ways as outlined below to mention a few.

- The data centers have spent several million dollars improving the City water and sewer infrastructure to a level that the City would find very difficult to achieve if not impossible. For example, the data centers have paid for a new million gallon water tank which was very much needed by the City. (Thank you Project Pillar.)
- Not only have the data centers provided this higher level of infrastructure for citizens of Prineville, the data centers are also very generous to our school system having given the Crook County School District several sizeable grants for improvement of schools. An example of this is a recent grant of \$100,000.00 to Crook County High School's science, mathematics and technology programs.

Thank you Facebook

Thank You Facebook for your generous donation. Crook County High school will receive \$100,000 to support science, technology, engineering and mathematics education.



- The data centers also annually give about a \$100,000.00 a year in small grants to numerous organizations in the community such as the Humane Society, Picnic in the Park, 4H Club auctions, etc.
- Facebook and Project Pillar have been great community partners and we look forward to continuing the relationship into the future.

Sincerely,


Betty J. Roppe
Mayor

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