



# Crook County

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March 2, 2015

Senator Mark Hess  
900 Court St NE, S-207,  
Salem, OR, 97301

Representative Mike McLane  
900 Court St NE, H-395,  
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Exemption of data centers from central assessment, SB 611

Dear Senator Hess and Representative McLane,

Please accept this letter as a statement of support for the exemption of data centers from central assessment, SB 611.

Oregon faces many challenges in the coming years, and remaining economically competitive in an increasingly interconnected world is foremost among them. Businesses looking to build and develop their infrastructure have the opportunity to invest anywhere in the world, and therefore look long and hard at the business climate of any local community.

Recently, Crook County has been able to attract the development of multiple data centers operated by world class businesses. One critical component of attracting this development to Oregon was our state's business-friendly environment, where the process of developing a business is straightforward and expedient. Given the highly volatile nature of the global economy, the predictability of a state's regulatory climate is an invaluable asset in deciding to invest in a community.

This is one reason by the Department of Revenue's efforts to reclassify data centers as being susceptible to central assessment is so troubling. An administrative agency effectively up-ended the economic foundation of an entire business sector, almost overnight. This seriously undermined Oregon's reputation as a business-friendly state and overturned the justifiable perception that in Oregon monumental economic issues would be debated and deliberated upon by elected officials through the democratic process. An administrative agency's unilateral action, without first seeking to persuade the elected legislature and without affording opponents an opportunity to speak their minds, creates an unpredictable business environment sure to discourage all kinds of business development, including but not limited to the construction of new data centers.

As a commissioner from Crook County, I ask for your support in the effort to reestablish the business environment that existed prior to the Department of Revenue's unilateral declaration on central assessment. Please help us restore the business-friendly climate Oregon has enjoyed and which has encouraged enterprises from around the world to invest here.

Sincerely,

Judge Mike McCabe

Senator Doug Whitsett  
District 28