Submitter: Jessica Vaughn

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1586

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Jessica Vaughn I am a lifelong resident of Hillsboro, Oregon. I am writing to express my strong opposition to SB 1586.

I do not support expanding the urban growth boundary to accommodate additional large-scale data center development. The urban growth boundary has long served as an important planning tool to protect farmland, manage infrastructure responsibly, and preserve the character of our communities. Expanding it for this purpose undermines those goals and sets a concerning precedent.

Hillsboro and the surrounding areas already host numerous data centers. While these facilities are often promoted as economic development engines, they do not generate significant long-term employment relative to the amount of land, power, and water they consume. The promise of jobs does not match the scale of the impact.

I am also deeply concerned about utility costs. Data centers require enormous amounts of electricity and water. As demand increases, I worry that residential ratepayers will ultimately shoulder higher costs to support expanded infrastructure. Families in our community should not bear financial burdens to subsidize large corporate operations.

Environmental impacts are another serious concern. Expanding development into agricultural lands threatens local farming, wildlife habitat, and long-term sustainability. Once farmland is converted, it is rarely restored. Protecting agricultural land is essential not only for our local economy but also for food security and environmental stewardship in Oregon.

Growth should be thoughtful, balanced, and aligned with the long-term interests of residents — not driven by short-term industrial expansion that offers limited community benefit.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to oppose SB 1586.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Jessica Vaughn