

Submitter: Hannah Smith
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1586
To: The Senate Committee on Finance and Revenue

My name is Hannah Smith and I am writing to urge the Oregon Legislature to vote NO on SB 1586. This is an irresponsible land grab that will destroy irreplaceable farm land and would do little to improve the communities around where the so-called “semiconductor industry” will build their businesses.

I have multiple serious concerns regarding this bill. These include the unfair and upward-pandering tax breaks; the clear, exploitable loopholes present in the bill’s wording; and the reckless industrialization planning paired with inconsistent messaging from proponents of the bill. This bill is a clear detriment to Oregon residents, their communities, the health of the land, and the future of our beloved home.

First, this bill gives significant tax breaks to exploitative non-local multibillion-dollar corporations that will only use the land to their gain. This will mean that our public schools and other entities that depend on income tax from large businesses will not have any property tax revenues from these potentially massive corporations for at least 5 years. This hurts our school children and the working families of Oregon and only will benefit large multi-million or billion dollar corporations.

Second, there is no guarantee that the revenue from these businesses will benefit Oregon communities at all. Although there seems to be a “no data center” clause to this bill, there also seems to be a loophole which will allow for data storage to be used as an accessory or part of a use for high technology and advanced manufacturing. That does not mean no data centers; that means companies will scam Oregonians out of our beautiful farmland to put monstrous data centers that are an accessory to their already behemoth industrial building. What we have seen is that time and time again that the land in Hillsboro has been squandered to low-wage, low-job-creating data centers that are a complete eyesore to our communities. These data centers wreak havoc on our environment, using enormous amounts of water and electricity which citizens pay for. Not only will these industries pay no taxes for years, but they will also hike up water and electricity prices for working families who are already having a hard enough time trying to make ends meet.

Third, it truly feels like the planning of this industrialization of our farmland is poorly thought out and dangerous. It also feels like the people of Oregon strongly oppose this and are not being listened to. Why are other areas that are already

paved over and vacant not being looked at for these purposes to “bring jobs” to Oregon? Senator Sollman stated that Oregon has an extremely high rate of unemployment in her January 30th, 2026 town hall which I attended in person. She touted that this is the way to “bring jobs” to Oregon and specifically Washington county. This rings hollow to me, there are plenty of already developed empty office buildings and industrial areas in Oregon itself that could be used to “bring jobs” that would not have such a profound impact on Oregon’s farmland and environment. It seems as if this land is the scapegoat for a larger problem of unemployment that Oregon legislators are not willing to address fully. It seems extremely reckless to push this bill through without working on what actually is the root cause of the unemployment in Oregon. Or maybe unemployment isn’t the reason this is happening at all. Perhaps there are other business interests at hand that our legislative team is not being fully transparent with their constituents about.

Please listen to residents of Oregon and Washington County and do not throw away this beautiful farmland, once it is gone we can never replace it.

Respectfully,
Hannah Smith