

Submitter: Jacob Roloff
On Behalf Of: Roloff Farms
Committee: Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1586

My name is Jacob Roloff, I am a 2nd generation farmer in Helvetia. I was born here, grew up here and have for the most part lived here my entire life, and I now raise my son here. I strongly oppose this farmland giveaway bill (SB1586) and its apparent sister bill, HB 4085.

SB 1586 is a completely unnecessary sweetening of an already good deal for tech development in Hillsboro. Regular Oregonians and Oregon farmland should not pay the price that tech companies are saving. There are still hundreds of acres from the 2014 Grand Bargain available and dozens of empty buildings and properties in the Tanasbourne and Hillsboro area. If tech companies want to come, then they can--right now. We do not need to bend over backwards to serve big money interests ("We" as in the un-lobbied, apparently) when the previous 1,100 acre deal was so profoundly squandered with a dozen or more data centers and virtually no permanent jobs.

Why should Oregonians and Hillsborians give the city and state another 1,700 acres of farmland to waste? People who can think for themselves without lobbyists in their ear, unlike Senator Sollman, Mayor Pace, and Governor Kotek, can see this for the land grab that it is, and they know that despite political maneuvering the land will end up with data centers on it. (<https://hillsboroherald.com/senate-bill-1586-definitions-assure-mega-ai-data-centers-on-farm-land-so-who-is-supporting-this-bill/>)

Senator Sollman feels very proud to say she has removed the doubly increased tax breaks in SB1586, while Gov Kotek sneaks in those same tax breaks in a much lower profile bill, HB4085. These representatives seem to think they know better than the people they purportedly serve and are so sure of it that they ignore all pleas for town halls.

The condescension from these bill sponsors is too much to bear for me. People who are opposed to this bill are opposed, largely, to the manner in which it is being shoved through, especially in a short legislative session--notwithstanding the content of the bill which reneges on the previous deal that these 1,700 acres would remain in rural reserve until 2065. Farmers are not backwards thinkers who oppose all development and technology. They are not ignorant of the economic considerations, meta or micro, and they certainly do not want the state to fiscally fail. But--they are acutely attuned to the value of our farmland, and with a projection of only approx. 60 more harvests until our world's topsoil disappears, this giveaway is simply egregious.

Large data centers can use up to 5,000,000 gallons of water *per day*, or 155,000,000 per month, and up to 80% of that simply evaporates. My small/medium farm which grows vegetables, acres of fruit trees, corn, and over 60,000 pounds of pumpkins for our seasonal agritourism event uses "merely" (it is a lot, to me!) 1,000,000 gallons in the whole month of July, the highest demand of the year.

I strongly oppose this bill on the basis of it prioritizing political dealmaking and private company profits over vitally important land and ecosystems that we will never get back. Between May 2024 and March 2025, at least \$64B in data center development was delayed or halted due to community engagement. None of this is inevitable, and there is certainly no emergency which justifies the rush that is being placed on this bill passing, while hundreds of acres remain unused and dozens of buildings sit vacant.

Regular Oregonians are simply seeing their communities in Forest Grove, in Boardman, in Helvetia, and Hillsboro threatened by the false promises of jobs and prosperity when what they actually receive is higher bills, fewer trees, destroyed ecosystems and local reference points, and more concrete fortresses in their place. Farms need to remain in the hands of farmers--for Food, not Servers.

I wonder how any of these legislators or our governor will be able to answer to the next generation personally or publicly about their decision to support SB1586.