

Submitter: Anthony Rubeo
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1586

Janeen Sollman,

Your actions have now been seen by 45,000 people across three countries, Canada, the United States, and the United Kingdom. What is happening in our small hometown is not going unnoticed. We are demanding answers and we are demanding transparency.

You are elected to act in favor of the community you represent, not in self interest and not in favor of lobbyists. These farmlands are precious. The wildlife is precious. The salmon in the creeks are precious. Within the acreage you are proposing to build on, there are over 1,000 species, from raptors to mammals to microscopic organisms in the soil, that will be destroyed or permanently affected.

There is deep heritage tied to this land. Heritage connected to Indigenous communities. Heritage tied to the first sheriff in our community. Heritage that represents a way of life. This is not just about families today. It is about farmland, food supply, and clean air. The mature trees slated for removal produce oxygen and regulate temperature. Once they are gone, they are gone.

You are proposing more than 10 data centers that will impact McKay Creek and its coho habitat through increased water temperatures. Coho require cold water, ideally around 42 to 45 degrees. Warmer discharge water from industrial cooling systems will raise creek temperatures beyond what this cornerstone species can tolerate. These salmon existed here long before valley settlement, when Indigenous communities actively managed this landscape.

Historical records indicate that Colonel Joseph Meek's Indigenous wives were buried near where Amazon now stands. That land was disturbed after limited ground penetrating radar scans failed to locate remains, despite historical documentation pointing to the burial area. Whether remains disintegrated over time or were removed, the ground was excavated and altered.

Now development is being proposed on land tied not only to Meek himself, but to land stewarded long before him by the Atfalati tribe. They curated and maintained this soil for generations, ensuring it remained nutrient rich and productive. Covering it with concrete destroys soil health, creek systems, wildlife habitat, and cultural continuity that spans centuries.

There is a widely recognized respect in this country regarding Native burial grounds. Disturbing them is considered deeply disrespectful.

You frame this as job creation. The primary employment is construction. After completion, these facilities are largely self maintaining.

There are also serious safety concerns. These facilities rely on large scale lithium battery systems. Lithium fires produce extremely toxic fumes and require specialized suppression methods. Washington County does not currently have the large scale

infrastructure to confidently manage a catastrophic lithium battery fire across multiple facilities. These are not fires extinguished with simple water application.

I live directly across from where these are being proposed. I do not want to breathe toxic smoke if something goes wrong. Our community does not want apologies, settlements, or political catch up after irreversible harm.

People are paying attention. Nearly 7,000 additional views occurred in 24 hours alone. Ages 13 to 85. This is no longer a quiet local matter.

Yet the project continues to move forward. When that happens in the face of visible community concern, people naturally begin asking why.