

Submitter: Gerritt Rosenthal  
On Behalf Of: self  
Committee: Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1586

SB 1586-7 Testimony

22 February 2026

Gerritt Rosenthal

My name is Gerritt Rosenthal and I am Metro Councilor for District 3, the southern portion of Washington County. I am here to testify, neither pro nor con regarding SB 1586, but in favor of rational discussion and prudent delay. SB 1586 is a complex bill with impacts in the process, taxation, definitional, and land use arenas, some of which concern Metro, but all of which are pertinent to both economic development, infrastructure planning, and funding for education and social services. Further, I think it sets a dangerous precedent for the legislature to short-circuit both regional planning and the Governors Prosperity Council and considerations that are informed by comprehensive local and regional discussions.

I support the concepts of maximizing employment in critical industrial areas but feel more has to be done to regulate data farms and make sure they pay their share proportionate to their impact on other systems. In my opinion, tax breaks for data centers and crypto-currency mining should be terminated as specified in dash-8.

I support economic development in tech, biomedical, wood products and other sectors of Oregon's economy but am concerned that opening up lands without adequate planning for infrastructure and without better coordination of our "classroom to career" pathways is somewhat shortsighted. I recognize also that Oregon has become a key technological center

This bill has created a rather considerable "stir", as evidenced by the broad and extensive testimony and amendments. It seems to me that, since there is no identified critical and immediate need, the people of Oregon, and Washington County in particular, would benefit by a more thorough discussion of both the immediate impacts of the bill, and also its potential to impact housing needs, transportation systems, educational coordination, and economic development in both the Metro region and throughout the Willamette Valley.

I support economic development in tech, biomedical, wood products and other sectors of Oregon's economy but am worried that opening up high quality agricultural lands without adequate planning is somewhat shortsighted. I do not support loss of prime ag land but also recognize that Oregon has become a key technology center and cannot always control economic forces behind critical technology advances.

It may be that there are economic, technological, and even national security implications for development in the Hillsboro region to which I am not aware, but I think the time is available to "get it right" hence would urge putting off passage of his bill until the 2027 full session.

Gerritt Rosenthal