

Submitter: Ralph Bond
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1586
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Date: February 24, 2026

I am asking you to oppose Bill 1586. I have many concerns about this bill:
Farmland and our soil: I am opposed to ruining farmland. Hillsboro has some of the most fertile and productive soil in the region. We have deep, well-drained silt loam soils, which are ideal for a wide range of crops. It's a tragedy that some of the valley's best farmland have been paved over. Hillsboro lost many acres of this rich soil, and we will not be able to get it back. Save this land – for agriculture. Give grants to farmers so they can be successful, and we can benefit for crops they grow.

Environment: I am deeply concerned about the impact this bill would have on our environment. Data centers need a significant amount of water to function. Wastewater from data centers is likely to contain PFAS chemicals, known as Forever Chemicals. PFAS pose serious health risks to humans including cancer and reproductive effects.

Utility Rates: I am upset about the impact on utility rates. Data centers consume enormous amounts of electricity and water.

Billionaires: I am frustrated and angry that three of the wealthiest companies in the world are behind Bill 1586. They would make a lot of money, and they would make our lives worse.

“BlackRock, Vanguard, and State Street, hold a near-controlling interest in Portland General Electric, NW Natural Gas, and Pacific Power. They invest directly, through LLCs and offshoot corporations and other financial vehicles, but the money can be tied back to them. Those same companies also own a large percentage of the Data Centers in Hillsboro. the traditional “checks and balances” of a free market disappear. As utility owners, they ask for rate hikes to build new infrastructure. As infrastructure owners, they collect the profits from building that infrastructure. As data center owners, they benefit from the property tax waivers and “flexible” zoning that SB 1586 provides.

The result? We pay higher utility bills to build a grid designed to serve their data centers, while the property taxes that should be funding our schools and roads are waived for a decade.” (information from the Hillsboro Herald)

Tax breaks: I am very disturbed about these tax breaks. They are hurting me and most of the citizens of Hillsboro.

Bill 1586 is destructive in many ways. Our lives would be negatively impacted. Our health and our environments would be harmed. Please do not destroy these 1,700 acres of rich, productive soil. I am asking you to oppose this bill.
Thank you for listening to my concerns.