



**ECUMENICAL
MINISTRIES**
— OF OREGON —

February 25, 2026

Chair Broadman, Vice-Chair McLane and Members of the Committee,

My name is Britt Conroy, and I serve as the Director of Public Policy at Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon. EMO's food, housing and other programs serve tens of thousands of Oregonians every year, and we are proud to act as an association of 15 member denominations that represent nearly 750 congregations across the state.

EMO opposes SB 1586 for the following reasons:

Land use: High quality agricultural land is a finite resource and a source of economic vitality for our communities. We are concerned that SB 1586 expends this resource without sufficient return and at a moment when existing acres of developable land sit unused. Regarding the conversion of farmland to industrial lands, EMO points in particular to the testimony of Mary Nolan and Robert Liberty, who raise profound concerns that SB 1586 substitutes our land use planning processes for a political approach with significant and permanent risks.

Data centers: EMO supports Sen. Golden's -8 amendment, which would add data centers and cryptocurrency mining operations to the list of entities ineligible for enterprise zone property tax breaks. EMO urges the committee to visit Washington County's existing data centers. We have found that, even during the work day, one sees massive data centers that have consumed valuable industrial land but that, based on just a handful of cars in the employee lots of these businesses, employ only a few people. It is clear that we have

forever traded away prime farmland, precious water and electricity and hundreds of millions of dollars in lost property tax revenue for not much job creation at all in return.

Timing: Finally, after watching bill concepts far less complicated and consequential being set aside for 2027, EMO does urge this committee to ask whether this short session is the moment to advance the proposed permanent tax break, land use and other considerations in SB 1586.

Sincerely,

Britt Conroy

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon