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## **DOHERTY PROMISES DATA CENTER ACCOUNTABILITY ACT TO PROTECT OREGON FAMILIES FROM BIG TECH GIVEAWAYS**

**MORROW COUNTY, OR – APRIL 17, 2026** — Jim Doherty, Republican candidate for Oregon House District 57, today announced he has drafted the Data Center Accountability Act and is pledging to build legislative support for the measure if elected this May. The proposal responds to growing frustration from Oregonians statewide who are watching their water supplies, power grids, and tax dollars handed over to some of the wealthiest corporations in the world.

“Oregonians are not against business,” Doherty said. “They are against being sold out. They do not want their water taken. They do not want their power bills raised. And they do not want their tax dollars handed to companies that are already making billions. Salem has not been listening. I will.”

Governor Tina Kotek and the Democratic Party of Oregon have continued to defend and extend tax incentive programs for large data center operators, treating corporate giveaways as a quick fix for the state’s budget problems while everyday Oregonians pay higher electricity bills and watch their water supplies dry up. They have a willing partner in District 57, Greg Smith, who has served 26 years as a Republican and is funded by Democratic organizations and PACs.

The Data Center Accountability Act would require any data center seeking state tax benefits to meet strict water usage standards, demonstrate no net increase in electricity costs to ratepayers, and submit to independent environmental auditing. The bill would also close existing enterprise zone loopholes used by large tech operators to reduce their local tax burden.

The need for the legislation hits close to home in District 57. The Lower Umatilla Basin is in the midst of Oregon’s first declared groundwater emergency, with more than 615 families on bottled water due to nitrate contamination. A [Rolling Stone investigation](#) linked Amazon data center operations to contaminated water returning to the local wastewater system at eight times Oregon’s safety limit. A March 2026 [Oregonian investigation](#) found Amazon paid more than \$100 million to a fiber-optic company whose board members were simultaneously negotiating Amazon’s tax breaks—a deal now at the center of a \$6.9 million Attorney General lawsuit that names Representative Greg Smith as a defendant. Smith sits on the Ways and Means Committee, which controls the state budget and approves the very tax incentive programs Amazon has relied on. His campaign has also accepted donations from Amazon.



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Doherty is the only candidate in this race who accepts no PAC money and has received no contributions from Amazon, or the corporations named as defendants in the Lower Umatilla water crisis lawsuit: Threemile Canyon Farms, Lamb Weston, and Beef Northwest Feeders. His opponent has taken money from all of them.

“This fight belongs to all of Oregon,” Doherty said. “Every family in this state deserves a government that works for them and not for the corporations writing the checks. That is what this bill is about. That is what this campaign is about.”

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