



March 31, 2021

The Honorable Pam Marsh  
Chair, House Committee on Energy and Environment  
900 Court St NE  
Room 453  
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Data Center Coalition Support for House Bill 2241- Water Quality Permitting

Dear Chair Marsh and Members of the House Committee on Energy and Environment,

I am writing on behalf of the Data Center Coalition (DCC), a trade association representing leading data center owners and operators, to register our support for HB 2241. We very much appreciate Rep. Wilde's leadership in sponsoring this important legislation.

HB 2241 establishes an innovative and pragmatic pilot program to provide additional resources to the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) so it can more efficiently perform its mission and execute permits in a timely manner. HB 2241 enables DEQ to expedite its permitting review by retaining external consultants with relevant experience. The consultants will assist DEQ in evaluating permits using the same criteria and standards that DEQ staff would use in determining whether an applicant has met the permit requirements under state law – all at the cost of the applicant. This user fee model does not require additional taxpayer funds to support the program.

It is our understanding that DEQ operates under constrained resources and currently has an administrative backlog of a large percentage of water quality permit applications still pending years after their submittal. The passage of this legislation will help alleviate that backlog and assist applicants in developing more accurate project planning timeframes.

Our members understand that water is a precious resource. We are committed to conserving and reusing water in our on-site operations and by working with private and public entities to re-use water for irrigation and other activities within communities where we operate data centers. Expedited permit processing would allow for more efficient re-use of water to support Oregon agricultural and irrigation needs. Data centers provide the underlying infrastructure and services that support distance learning, remote work and collaboration, telehealth, video conferencing, e-commerce, and many other technologies central to our daily lives. Delays in water quality permits can result in significant delays and uncertainty for customers who use data center services.

We urge you to support HB 2241. Please let me know if I can be of assistance to you in supporting this legislation as it is considered in the legislature. You can contact me by e-mail at: [josh@datacentercoalition.org](mailto:josh@datacentercoalition.org) or by telephone at: (703) 946-0314.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Josh Levi". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a distinct flourish at the end.

Josh Levi  
President  
Data Center Coalition  
<https://www.datacentercoalition.org/>