

Submitter: KB Mercer
On Behalf Of: My husband and myself
Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment
Measure: HB2816

Chair Marsh, Co-Chairs Levy, and Members of the Committee –

For the record my name is KB Mercer and my husband, David Huffman and I live in Portland. I am on the Steering Committee of the Metro Climate Action Team.

We encourage you to pass HB 2816 with the amendments the proposers developed with significant stakeholder feedback. We support HB 2816 because these types of high energy use facilities should not be exempted from the hard won climate goals environmentalists and legislators have worked to secure in our state.

HB 2816 simply ensures that the goals of cleaning up energy generation in Oregon over time that were passed by the Legislature in HB 2021 are not undercut by data centers and crypto-currency companies with high-energy needs. We think Oregon could see economic and social benefits from welcoming these industries into our state, and Oregon has much to offer them in energy costs, tax benefits, and undersea data cable access, however, we believe growth in this industry should not come at the cost of Oregon being unable to meet our statewide goals for clean energy generation.

We have some reasons to be concerned, so now would be the time to set standards for the future:

- According to the Oregonian, Umatilla Electric Cooperative's GHG emissions have grown 543% since 2010 when Amazon data centers arrived.
- Cryptocurrency operations are not yet numerous in OR, but in New York State, cryptocurrency operators are vertically integrating fossil fuel power plants.
- Data centers are projected to use 58% more energy by 2030 and 128% by 2040, according to industry group NWPC.
- Although the industry as a whole is voluntarily moving in the right direction with their clean energy goals, Amazon recently sought a permit from DEQ to build on-site gas-powered fuel cells to provide baseload power for three data centers.

HB 2816 would prevent this type of infrastructure, which would have a decades long lifespan, and contravene Oregon's clean energy goals.

Fortunately, most of these high-energy-demand companies are already publicly committed to doing better than the HB 2021 phase-in goals. HB 2816 will not affect these companies' plans for how they meet their energy demands, and the administrative requirements for confirming compliance would be minor.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify, and please support HB 2816.

Sincerely;

KB Mercer and David Huffman
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