

Submitter: Walt Mintkeski

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Measure: HB2816

I encourage you to pass HB 2816 with the amendments which the proposers developed with significant stakeholder feedback. I support HB 2816 because I am very concerned about global warming.

HB 2816 requires that the owner/operator who controls a high energy use facility ensures that greenhouse gas emissions associated with its electricity use are reduced to match the HB 2021 emissions reductions phase-in targets for PGE and Pacific Power energy generation, ending with 100% below baseline emissions levels by 2040. Simply stated, the proposed legislation ensures that the goals of reducing carbon emissions from energy generation in Oregon, as contained in HB 2021, are not undercut by data centers and crypto-currency companies with high-energy needs. Growth in this industry should not come at the cost of Oregon being unable to meet our statewide goals for clean energy generation.

There are reasons to be concerned about data center electricity generation, so now would be the time to set standards for the future:

- Cryptocurrency operations are not yet numerous in OR, but in New York State, cryptocurrency operators are vertically integrating fossil fuel power plants into their facilities.
- According to the Oregonian, Umatilla Electric Cooperative's GHG emissions have grown 543% since 2010 when Amazon data centers arrived.
- Data centers are projected to use 58% more energy by 2030 and 128% by 2040, according to industry group NWPCC.
- 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 is a backstop to prevent this kind of activity which Amazon or others might pursue, and to put all companies in the sector on the same path to renewable energy. 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 submit testimony, and please support HB 2816.