

Submitter: Jane Stackhouse

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Measure: HB2816

Oregon has been fortunate in recent years to attract data centers and the many jobs they bring to rural parts of the state. Many have been good corporate citizens that build with energy efficiency and clean energy in mind. It appears to me that this legislation is required because of at least one bad actor and likely more to come.

This bad actor, Amazon, interpreted Climate Protection Plan rules written by the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to their advantage, and our disadvantage. They hatched a plan to supply their electricity needs with methane fuel cells. DEQ was forced to draft temporary rules to clarify their (and our) original intent for the exemption of methane used for and sequestered in a product. That is one way to stop unscrupulous corporations from adding to pollution of our atmosphere with this potent greenhouse gas. An even better way is to pass this legislation.

HB 2816 makes these big data centers align with the goals set in HB 2021 for investor owned electric utilities that will result in mostly clean electricity in Oregon by 2040. This is fair since they require so much electricity that, in Amazon's case, they exceeded the full allotment from BPA and forced a smaller utility, Umatilla Electric, to have to buy dirty electricity from out of state. If you saw the photos of Amazon's data center in he Oregonian you probably noticed that the are no solar panels on that huge building. Amazon touts their carbon reduction transportation plans but apparently their data centers did not get the memo.

We don't need to single out Amazon to justify this legislation because other data centers will undoubtedly try to use easy dirty power for their facilities. We should specify that they have a plan for clean energy before we give any tax breaks to locate here. We need to do more than point out the many other data centers have been designed to be energy efficient and net zero. Please send HB 2816 out of committee with a 'do pass' recommendation.