

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon

February 22, 2023

Re: HB 2816 and -2 amendment support

Chair Marsh, Vice-Chair Bobby Levy, Vice-Chair Emerson Levy, and members of the House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment,

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon and Oregon Interfaith Power & Light (EMO and OIPL) would like to thank you for the opportunity to comment on HB 2601. EMO consists of 15 member denominations and over 150 congregations, faith-based organizations, and institutions. We also partner with groups and individuals from many faith traditions to form Oregon Interfaith Power & Light.

In 2021, EMO and OIPL advocated alongside many other organizations and Oregonians for the passage of HB 2021, 100% Clean Energy for Oregon. We are proud of Oregon's commitment to move toward reliance on energy that is renewable and that does not cause hazards to human and planetary health.

Therefore, we wish to voice support for HB 2816, which strengthens the intention of HB 2021 by ensuring that 100% clean energy use pertains to all facilities in areas of the state covered by HB 2021. We support the -2 amendment, which addresses stakeholder concerns. HB 2816 applies mainly to data centers and cryptocurrency operations. Although people sometimes think of digital storage as a "greener" option compared to printing on paper, these facilities use large amounts of energy, and some in Oregon are moving toward generating their own fossil fuel-powered energy. Since the major tech companies have already made 100% clean energy pledges, this bill would not place an undue economic burden. This bill would simply ensure these companies meet their pledges, that other companies follow their lead, and that Oregon makes our share of progress toward greenhouse gas reduction goals. The reporting method to the DEQ in the bill is simple and straightforward and will not require extra administrative work on the part of the State or the facilities.

HB 2816 adds fairness to the implementation of HB 2021, helps Oregon reach emission reduction goals, and ensures benefits to human health due to reduced air pollution, all of this without harming economic interests.

Sincerely,

Cherice Bock, MDiv, MS environmental studies
Creation Justice Advocate
Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon
Oregon Interfaith Power & Light

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Interchurch Center
245 S. Bancroft St., Ste. B
Portland, Oregon 97239

phone (503) 221-1054

email emo@emoregon.org

website EMOregon.org