

Submitter: Meg Bowman

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Measure: HB2816

Chair Marsh, Co-Chairs Levy, and Members of the Committee,
I encourage you to pass HB 2816 with the amendments its proposers have developed based on significant stakeholder feedback. I support HB 2816 as a backstop to ensure all tech companies stay on the same path to 100% clean energy.

HB 2816 simply ensures that the goals of cleaning up energy generation over time in Oregon, goals that were already passed by the Legislature in HB 2021, are not undercut by data centers and crypto-currency companies with high-energy needs. Oregon can 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, I believe growth in this industry should not come at the cost of Oregon being unable to meet our statewide goals for clean energy generation. This would be a lose-lose for all.

Although the industry as a whole is voluntarily moving in the right direction with its 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. Data centers overall are projected to use 58% more energy by 2030 and 128% by 2040, according to industry group NWPC (Northwest Power and Conservation Council), which may mean commitments to clean energy generation will be tested. 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. But it will ensure with more certainty Oregon's commitment to clean energy and thus, a more hopeful future.

Thank you for considering my testimony, and please support HB 2816.

Respectfully,
Meg Bowman
Portland