



March 20, 2023

Representative Pam Marsh, Chair
House Committee on Energy and Environment
Oregon State Capitol
Salem, OR 97301

Re: HB 2816 and -3 Amendment - SUPPORT

Chair Marsh and Members of the Committee,

This supplements our written testimony submitted on February 22nd. As HB 2816 with the -3 amendment comes before the House Climate, Energy, and Environment Committee, **we strongly urge your support!** Climate Solutions is a regional non-profit working to accelerate clean energy solutions to the climate crisis.

Stakeholders continue to pursue a regulatory framework that is the 'lightest touch' possible while ensuring that operators of high energy use facilities follow a clean energy pathway that is in line with Oregon's decarbonization goals. This pathway is attainable. The -3 amendment recognizes the significant accomplishments already achieved in procuring clean energy for data centers, but also provides a backstop for a sector with a significant energy use growth curve. The amendment also ensures that cryptocurrency operations, if and when they are built in Oregon, adhere to our clean energy trajectory as well.

The risks of allowing cryptocurrency operations in particular to continue utilizing fossil fuel generated energy are significant. A recent White House report stated that cryptocurrency mining now accounts for 0.9% to 1.7% of the electricity consumed in the country and produces between 25 and 50 million metric tons of carbon dioxide annually — comparable to the diesel fuel emissions produced by the nation's trains.¹

¹ [FACT SHEET: Climate and Energy Implications of Crypto-Assets in the United States - OSTP - The White House](#)

These risks are not abstract or conceptual. They are playing out in at least two states already. New York's legislature recently passed a moratorium to prevent the use of old fossil-fuel-powered plants as crypto mining centers. In Washington, a spokesman for Governor Inslee warned that "[crypto] mining hogs energy and generates few jobs, and our energy infrastructure must prioritize Washingtonians' energy demands. Future legislation might close loopholes to insist that energy-intensive industries procure clean, renewable energy consistent with our state laws."²

Our clean energy future is at stake. HB 2816 is a simple and common sense solution. The -3 amendment includes two important changes:

- Exempts existing data centers and cryptocurrency operations (i.e. high energy use facilities), limiting the bill's clean energy requirements to facilities that begin operating after January 1, 2024.
- Allows high energy use facilities to apply for a temporary reliability pause if necessary due to constraints in procuring clean energy. This is similar to the reliability pause provision in HB 2021 and thus creates additional parity with that law.

These changes have been made to directly address concerns from stakeholders and will ensure that newcomers to our state will contribute to our decarbonization goals while still giving flexibility to those already operating here.

For all these reasons, **we urge your strong support of HB 2816 with the -3 amendment.**

Sincerely,

Joshua Basofin

Joshua Basofin
Clean Energy Policy Manager
Climate Solutions

² [Washington and Oregon may regulate the wild West of crypto mining | Crosscut](#)