



March 20, 2023

House Committee on Climate, Energy and Environment
900 Court St, NE
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Chair Marsh, Vice-Chairs Levy and Levy, and committee members,

The Technology Association of Oregon (TAO) is the force behind the regional tech industry—supporting entrepreneurs, connecting peers and decision makers statewide, and helping establish the Northwest as a global hub for innovation. We work with over 500 tech and tech-enabled companies throughout Oregon, ranging in size from one-person startups to some of the largest tech companies in the world.

TAO appreciates the opportunity to submit testimony in opposition to HB 2816. While we appreciate the intent of the underlying bill, we are concerned that this bill unfairly targets data centers located in Eastern Oregon and harms the communities in which they reside.

Data centers play an integral role in Oregon's digital infrastructure and economy. And many tech companies who own and operate data centers have brought online an unprecedented amount of new utility-scale renewable energy across the United States through purely voluntary actions. In Oregon, a significant amount of that development has occurred in Eastern Oregon.

Oregon tech companies do not control the decisions that their energy utilities make. They alone cannot change the structural barriers that prevent more clean energy from powering the grid. Yet this bill penalizes tech companies for decisions outside of their control.

On behalf of our members, TAO looks forward to engaging in a meaningful discussion on Oregon's transition to clean energy for the benefit of **all** Oregon industries and people. The barriers to renewable energy are not found in Salem, but rather the complicated bureaucracy that is the Bonneville Power Administration.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our concerns with HB 2816.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Skip Newberry".

Skip Newberry
President & CEO, Technology Association of Oregon