



TECHNET
THE VOICE OF THE
INNOVATION ECONOMY

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March 20, 2023

Climate, Energy, Environment Committee
900 Court Street, NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

RE: HB 2816 and -3 Amendment – Oppose

Chair Marsh and Members of the Committee,

While we appreciate the intent of the underlying legislation, we have serious concerns with the unintended consequences of the bill.

TechNet is the national, bipartisan network of technology CEOs and senior executives that promotes the growth of the innovation economy by advocating a targeted policy agenda at the federal and 50-state level. Our diverse membership includes dynamic American businesses ranging from startups to the most iconic companies on the planet and represents over five million employees and countless customers in the fields of information technology, e-commerce, the sharing and gig economies, advanced energy, cybersecurity, venture capital, and finance.

The tech industry has and continues to lead the way on climate. Fifty percent of technology companies acknowledge the risk of climate change in their financial reporting, outpacing other industries. In fact, U.S. tech firms are the most prolific buyers of clean energy, purchasing over half of the record 37GW of power sold to corporations globally last year. If given a choice between Door A of renewable energy or Door B of fossil fuel energy, they will pick Door A. But in Oregon, they don't always have that choice. And we need to work with them - not against them - to open more doors to clean energy.

HB 2816 unfairly targets data centers in Eastern Oregon. These data centers generate important revenue for rural city and county governments, provide jobs that might not otherwise exist, and provide stability for local economies. That is why mayors, city and county managers, county commissioners, and other local officials in Eastern Oregon are extremely concerned with this bill.

We want to warn this committee that this legislation will force companies to seriously reevaluate their plans for Oregon and jeopardize the State's efforts to build an inclusive, world-class innovation economy. Real help would be found in enabling and expediting the build out of transmission capacity to bring more clean power to the grid.

Unfortunately, an amended bill does not address this fundamental challenge because HB 2816 provides no new tools or assistance to help companies or rural communities achieve their clean energy goals.

To effectuate real positive climate change, we need action from all businesses and people in the State; not a piecemeal approach that targets a single sector of the economy. To date we have not seen efforts for a task force, work group, or any attempt at a coordinated discussion with local governments, energy providers, or impacted industry.

We appreciate your consideration of our concerns with HB 2816 and look forward to the opportunity to meaningfully engage on this issue. Please don't hesitate to reach out if I can answer any questions.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ashley Sutton".

Ashley Sutton
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