

Submitter: Paxton Rothwell
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3546

Dear Chair Lively and members of the committee,

I proudly support HB 3546. This bill will protect everyday Oregonians and small businesses from rising energy costs that should be shouldered by the large energy consumers who need more energy. Amazon, Google, and Meta have built and maintained large data centers throughout Oregon. While these centers claim to create many jobs, once they are built they offer few. Instead these data centers consume enormous amounts of electricity and water resources. The pseudo-monopolistic public utilities in the state charge all ratepayers for utility costs on an equal basis, independent of how much energy they use. This is wrong. When utilities need to upgrade power lines or energy production to meet the demand of a few large energy use ratepayers, those ratepayers should bear the burden of those upgrades. Instead these costs are passed along to all Oregonians. I personally believe my life is worse off because Amazon, Google, and Meta are mining data from my internet activity in order to better sell me items I don't want and control my political views. It sickens me to my core that I along with millions of other Oregonians are helping to offset the energy costs for these corporations who are taking advantage of us.

This bill would be a huge leap toward spreading the costs of energy production and distribution fairly to all Oregonians. While socialized policies like education and wildfire management help all Oregonians, socializing the costs of energy production to all ratepayers is regressive. It punishes poor Oregonians who have to pay more to heat their homes in winter while offering a huge benefit to these large energy consumers who, in my opinion, do not need to be mining our internet data. Providing the basics (energy for heating) is much more important than providing a subsidy for corporations so that they get a bigger profit.

Do right by Oregonians. Pass this bill. And make sure there aren't any loopholes that corporations can exploit. And ignore the lobbyists hired on behalf of these corporations who are paid to attend this hearing.