



Dear Chair Lively, Vice-Chairs Levy and Gamba, and Members of the Committee,

As an organization which advocates for climate justice and public health, we urge your support for HB 3546. Passing HB 3546 is a step Oregon's government can take to reduce the unfair energy cost burden on Oregonians due to the accelerating energy demands from data centers, cryptocurrency, and other large energy users.

According to [a report by KGW](#), "data centers already account for an estimated 11% of Oregon's power consumption — more than twice as much as all the homes in Portland. And that consumption is expected to double, perhaps triple or quadruple, by the end of the decade." This sharp increase in energy usage requires big investments in the infrastructure to handle the demand. This results in high utility bills for residential customers which can turn deadly when Oregonians can't afford to adequately heat or cool their homes during extreme weather or run air filters during severe wildfire events (or if they live close to a traffic corridor with significant pollution).

HB 3546 would create a new customer category for data centers and cryptocurrency shops that use 20 megawatts or more. Customers in this category would be required to sign contracts for at least 10 years to justify the upgrades in the infrastructure required to support them, pay for the investments made to connect them to the grid, and pay an extra fee if their energy use exceeds their estimated demand. In addition, having to pay for the infrastructure upgrades might be an incentive for companies that run data centers to work on improving efficiency and/or run less wasteful programs. Lower electricity demand from data centers would make it easier for Oregon to build out the electrical grid to provide clean electricity and meet its climate goals.

HB 3546 is an important step to protect Oregonians from rising energy costs while making our utilities systems stronger. Please join us in supporting this important legislation.

Thank you,
Amanda Duncan
Co-Chair of the Legislative Committee
Climate Reality Project Portland Chapter

About the Climate Reality Project Portland Chapter

The Climate Reality Project (CRP) Portland Chapter is a local, volunteer-led chapter of The Climate Reality Project, an international nonprofit of 5 million members led by climate leader and former US Vice President Al Gore, whose mission is to catalyze global solutions to the climate crisis. Our legislative committee bases its advocacy on CRP's 5 pillars: a just transition to clean energy, zero carbon transportation, climate justice and public health, green communities, and a fair, representative democracy. climaterealitypdx.com/, www.climaterealityproject.org