

Dear Chair Lively and the House Climate, Energy & Environment Committee,

I am a Portland homeowner who operates a small business out of my home. I am writing to ask you to support HB 3546, the POWER ACT, which would protect Oregonians from paying for the data center's electricity costs.

The growth of jobs in rural communities to support these data centers should not be at the expense of Oregon homeowners and small businesses. As the demand for energy from data centers has risen, energy prices for household utility bills have also skyrocketed.

I support HB 3546 because it will protect Oregonians' energy bills, hold data centers accountable, and ensure a stronger Oregon energy system.

Protect Oregonians' Energy Bills

Oregon families and small businesses are already struggling. We should not be subsidizing the energy costs of data centers. When large energy users don't pay their share, it hurts all Oregonians. Multinational technology corporations make billions in profits annually and should be footing the bill to pay for their electricity. The POWER Act will ensure that utility costs can be tracked and billed appropriately to data centers by creating a new customer category for each for-profit electric utility.

Hold Data Centers Accountable

Data centers have grown exponentially over the last decade and added a lot of costs to our energy grid. Oregon households are hitting their limit with utility costs, as evidenced by our two largest electric utilities disconnecting a record-breaking nearly 53,000 households last year by just October. HB 3546 protects families and small businesses from paying for data center-specific costs when these new users are connected to the energy grid and when they add new costs to the system in the future.

Ensure a Stronger Oregon Energy System

We have seen other states struggle to meet energy needs as data centers have boomed. Oregon needs to protect our energy systems and affordability. The POWER Act ensures that utilities can plan for how to reliably provide electricity to everyone by requiring data centers to commit to paying for minimum energy use and fines for excess energy use.

Please vote yes on HB 3546 to protect Oregon households and small businesses from paying the electrical costs of these data centers.

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