

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

Dear Chair Lively, Vice-Chair Gamba, Vice-Chair Levy, and members of the committee,

My name is Rory Isbell. I live in Bend and I am in strong support of HB 3546, the POWER Act.

I am the current Board Chair of the Oregon Citizens Utility Board, or CUB. CUB was created by ballot measure over 40 years ago. CUB's governing board is required to be representative of the entire state, with multiple board members residing in each of Oregon's six federal congressional districts. I am testifying today to provide a perspective on the POWER Act from utility ratepayers east of the Cascades, most of whom are PacificPower, Avista, or Idaho Power customers.

As a result of good legislation passed two years ago, ODOE is currently developing an Oregon Energy Strategy to inform how much and what kind of energy our state will need to meet demands and reach climate goals going forward. A key finding of the Draft Oregon Energy Strategy modeling predicts a 40% increase in electricity demand over the next five years, driven by new data centers. That's a staggering increase.

The POWER Act would ensure that large energy users, like data centers, are paying for their own energy needs, and not burdening residential customers with their massive energy needs.

Here in Central Oregon, PacificPower electricity customers have seen residential rates skyrocket over the past two years. Our region is also home to multiple large data centers, owned by Meta, Apple, Google, and Amazon. These are some of the most profitable companies in the history of the world. The Power Act will ensure they pay their own way for additional data center development in our region, and that the people of Central and Eastern Oregon are not subsidizing these corporations.

On behalf of the CUB Board of Governors, and utility ratepayers in Central and Eastern Oregon, I urge you to support HB 3546 and pass it out of committee with a "do pass" recommendation.

Thank you.