

TO: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment
RE: Support HB 3546
DATE: March 5, 2025

Dear Chair Representative Lively and member of the House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment,

My name is Grace Rogers, and I am a Willamette University student studying in Salem, Oregon. I support HB 3546 Protecting Oregonians With Energy Responsibility (POWER) Act because I believe that data centers should be held accountable for their own costs and should not burden Oregon households with the financial pressures their extreme energy use can cause.

Large data centers for industries such as cryptocurrency can place large financial stresses on everyday households, businesses, and families, and gain profit during times of crisis at the expense of residents. During Winter Storm Uri in Texas in 2021, crypto operations were able to make profits by reselling electricity, saying that natural disasters such as Uri could be a “significant business opportunity.” This is a dangerous and exploitative industry attitude, and these businesses need to be kept in check.

The POWER Act will:

- Prevent risk for families and small businesses from paying for the costs of these large energy users
- Make large energy users pay for a minimum amount of energy in a period of time, even if they use less energy than expected
- Make large energy users pay an extra fee if they use too much, ensuring excess costs don't go to households

We need data centers, cryptocurrency, and other large energy users to pay their fair share. Their demand for energy is creating greater need to invest in our energy grid but the cost is largely going to everyone else. By supporting HB 3546, you are supporting the protection of Oregon residents from the financial burden large data centers place on them. Please support this act and hold these industries accountable!

Thank you,

Grace Rogers