

**Testimony Submitted by  
Angela Donley, Policy Analyst  
Oregon Consumer Justice  
To the House Committee on Climate, Energy, and Environment**

March 5, 2025

Regarding: Support for HB 3546

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

For the record, my name is Angela Donley. I appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony on behalf of Oregon Consumer Justice in support of HB 3546.

Oregon Consumer Justice (OCJ) envisions a vibrant future where all Oregonians live with dignity and abundance and experience health, joy, and economic opportunity. We work collaboratively across policy and advocacy, community engagement, and the law, to realize a more just and equitable Oregon where people come first. For too long, flawed systems and policies have stood in the way of this reality, with communities of color most often experiencing significant harm. Informed by consumer insights, OCJ works to make financial and business transactions reliably safe and supports Oregonians in knowing and exercising their consumer rights.

Consumers have the right to fair and affordable utility rates and full transparency about the costs they are expected to pay.

As utility rates continue to rise, our most impacted communities—older adults, people living with disabilities, and low-income households—are struggling to keep up with payments and are facing record-high disconnections of these essential services. OCJ believes people need to come first. Oregonians should not be forced to bear consecutive rate hikes or fear for their own or their family's safety during cold, hot, or other extreme weather.

Senate Bill 3546 seeks to reduce energy costs for consumers by ensuring that data centers pay their fair share for the energy they use. Oregon families are already facing financial strain amid rising costs and should not have to subsidize the heavy energy consumption of large corporations and their strain on Oregon's infrastructure. This bill will create a new customer class to protect consumers from shouldering the costs due to increased energy demand. It also requires data centers and cryptocurrency businesses to make a 10-year commitment to staying in the communities that contribute to their energy needs.

Thank you for your consideration and your service in building the future that Oregonians deserve.