

Submitter: Ann Turner

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 Ann Turner. I am a retired physician, a member of and Co-President of the Board of Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility (Oregon PSR). Oregon PSR is a statewide organization of more than 2000 members that works to protect human life from the gravest threats to health and survival.

I am writing in support of HB 3546, Protecting Oregonians With Energy Responsibility (POWER) Act. We continue to see rising utility costs in our bills. These costs are increasingly unaffordable by our most vulnerable Oregonians, the elderly, those on fixed incomes, individuals and families with low incomes, and small businesses. As a physician, working in a community health center, I was frequently asked to certify that turning off my patient's electricity would harm their health. Oregonians often face the choice of paying their rent or paying their utility bill. In fact, more Oregonians had their utilities disconnected in 2024 for not being able to pay their bill than ever before.

One of the main drivers of these rising costs are data centers and other big tech operations that already use massive amounts of energy and plan to continue to grow. These corporations are some of the wealthiest in the nation and are not paying their fair share. These companies need to invest in generating their own clean energy. We should not be footing the bill for them.

Please protect our most vulnerable Oregonians and pass the POWER ACT, HB 3546.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Ann Turner, MD  
Portland