



March 7, 2025

To: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Re: Support for HB 3546, POWER Act

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

We appreciate the opportunity to submit testimony in **support of HB 3546**, the POWER Act. Coalition of Communities of Color (CCC) is an alliance of culturally specific community-based organizations. Our mission includes addressing the socioeconomic disparities experienced by individuals, families, and communities of color; and to engage in collective action for social change to obtain self-determination, wellness, justice, and prosperity.

CCC has heard directly from customers about their struggles to afford their energy bills amidst consistent rate increases and rising costs for other essentials. These rate increases have coincided with increased energy demand from large data centers and the technology sector. Households should not foot the bill for these costs, and the POWER Act ensures that data centers pay their fair share.

HB 3546 will help protect energy affordability for Oregonians and ensure that large customers, such as data centers, pay for their own energy system needs. The bill allows utility regulators to create a new customer class for these tech loads so that these infrastructure investments are paid by them instead of by all customers.

We understand that increased investments in energy infrastructure are required to meet the growing demand for clean, renewable energy and meet climate goals and we understand that this will contribute to increased grid load. But a significant portion of these load increases are from large tech centers, which have their own unique impacts to the energy system. It is critical that we take action to protect ratepayers from bearing these costs. We urge you to support this bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nikita Daryanani".

Nikita Daryanani
Climate and Energy Policy Manager
Coalition of Communities of Color