

March 6, 2025

The Honorable John Lively  
Chair, House Committee on Climate, Energy & Environment  
900 Court Street, NE  
Salem, OR 97301

RE: House Bill 3546 -- Support

Chair Lively and members of the committee:

Pacific Power is an investor-owned utility that provides safe and reliable electric service to more than 620,000 customers across Oregon, primarily in rural parts of the state. Pacific Power is part of PacifiCorp, which serves 2 million customers in six western states.

Pacific Power respectfully submits written testimony in support of House Bill 3546.

Oregon is uniquely situated, particularly in Central and Eastern Oregon, with the opportunity to house an ever-increasing number of data centers in areas that have not historically benefited from sustained economic growth.

Over the last few years, utilities have fielded requests for extremely large new load requests requiring a significant level of transmission and generation infrastructure to support their loads. These customers with extremely large load requests, like data centers, will need additional infrastructure and Pacific Power is working with those customers to find a path forward without negatively impacting existing customers.

While the existing regulatory framework is established to protect customers and align the costs of energy infrastructure with the customers benefiting from these investments, the scale, pace and uncertainty surrounding this potential load growth requires additional regulatory updates to protect all customers while creating a path for large customers to expand their businesses.

While PacifiCorp supports this bill, we believe clarifications are necessary to address the tremendous backlog of requests being evaluated by many utilities, including PacifiCorp. We believe Section 3 of the of the bill should be clarified to include all customers which require new facilities which have not yet been placed into service and customers who have not entered into service contracts should be subject to this legislation. The treatment will ensure better protection of other classes of retail electricity consumers from bearing costs associated with the large volume of inquiries by large energy use facilities.

To be clear, utilities are the backbone of economic development across our state, and it is imperative for all of us to work together by enabling the continued investment of these large load projects in our communities while protecting affordability for residential and small business customers. Pacific Power looks forward to partnering with stakeholders and legislators in Oregon to meet the state's growing electricity needs, investing in our diverse system and new resources.

Pacific Power supports HB 3546 as a meaningful framework to ensure continued economic growth with fairness for all customers.

If questions, please contact: Elizabeth Howe (503) 910-3270 or Shawn Miller (503) 551-7738.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Annette Price". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "A" and a distinct "P" at the end.

Annette Price

Cc: House Climate, Energy & Environment Committee members