

Submitter: Genevieve Hall
On Behalf Of: MCAT and self
Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3546

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in favor of HB 3546, the POWER Act. My name is Genevieve Hall and I live in Fairview, Oregon. Since data centers and related very large energy users are driving substantial increases in electricity demand in Oregon, which in turn is driving expansions in electric infrastructure. Unfortunately, the current policies allow the costs to be distributed disproportionately to usage. Over the past decade, large industrial electricity rates – which is what data centers currently pay – have increased barely more than 2 cents/kWh, while household electricity rates have increased more 7.5 cents/kWh. This is despite the fact that over the past five years (for Pacific Gas and Electric), electricity load growth due to data centers was almost seven times greater than that due to household customers. Oregonians are suffering as a result of this unfair situation: over 50,000 households had their electricity disconnected last year. HB 3546 proposes an intelligent solution by creating a new customer class for data centers. Conceptually, this proposal is analogous to the weight-mile tax or Road Use Assessment Fee that is required for large trucks in Oregon. Higher use of the common resource – the road or electric infrastructure – should entail higher investment. Therefore, I urge you to support HB 3546, the POWER Act.