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Testimony regarding HB3546, the Oregon Biennium Budget

Chair Sollman and members of the Senate Committee on Energy and Environment:

As I have noted previously, Southern Oregon Climate Action Now is the oldest grassroots climate organization in the Rogue Valley and represents some 2,000 Southern Oregonians who are concerned about the climate crisis and seek federal, state and local action to address it. We are rural and coastal Southern Oregonians who live on the frontlines of the warming, reducing snowpack, heatwaves, drought, rising sea level and the increasing wildfire risk that these trends conspire to impose on us. Because of our concern, we pay close attention to efforts nationally, statewide, and locally that impact our collective efforts to address the climate crisis. As our logo above indicates, the focus of SOCAN is to promote action through science while encouraging that this be undertaken through a social justice lens.

We are very much aware that HB2021 passed in 2021 and demanding that electricity retailed in Oregon must be 100% clean by 2040 (OLIS 2021) has generated some problems with transmission grid access and transmission grid capacity (e.g., Apter 2025, Harrison 2024, Hill-Hart 2024). We therefore applaud and support the array of bills that have been introduced to address grid problems and upgrade the system, notably HB3336 (OLIS 2025a), HB2065 (OLIS 2025b), HB2066 (OLIS 2025c), and HB3609 (OLIS 2025d). Another challenge to the grid is posed by the construction of energy intensive data centers (e.g., Yanez Barñuevo 2025, McGlaughlin 2025). This problem is exacerbated by the involvement of Artificial Intelligence (e.g., Anonymous 2025).

Since data centers are developed and utilized by large corporate entities with huge financial resources, and currently, they utilize energy from the grid at rock-bottom prices, it only makes sense to protect the average Oregon utility ratepayer, from the likely rate hike that utilities will demand in order to provide these facilities with the energy they need.

S first step towards allowing the PUC to establish a price differential such that these energy intensive grid users can be charged a reasonable fee for the energy they need, and not compromise the rates of the general public is to establish a specific category for these massive

energy consumers. An obvious first necessary step is to establish a specific category into which these energy intensive grid users fall to separate them from the rest of us.

For the above reasons Southern Oregon Climate Action Now urges a Do Pass vote for HB3546

Respectfully Submitted



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Sources Cited

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Harrison J. 2024 The grid is insufficient for renewables. BPA has a \$2 billion plan Columbia Insight. <https://columbiainsight.org/therenewables-grid-is-insufficient-bpa-has-a-2-billion-plan/>

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<https://olis.oregonlegislature.gov/liz/2021R1/Measures/Overview/HB2021>

OLIS 2025a 2025 Regular Session: HB3336 Oregon Legislative Information System
<https://olis.oregonlegislature.gov/liz/2025R1/Measures/Overview/HB3336>

OLIS 2025b 2025 Regular Session: HB2065 Oregon Legislative Information System
<https://olis.oregonlegislature.gov/liz/2025R1/Measures/Overview/HB2065>

OLIS 2025c 2025 Regular Session: HB2066 Oregon Legislative Information System
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OLIS 2025d 2025 Regular Session: HB3609 Oregon Legislative Information System
<https://olis.oregonlegislature.gov/liz/2025R1/Measures/Overview/HB3609>

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