

Submitter: Thomas Busse

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Measure: HB2816

This bill is concealing its true purpose. The bill only applies to off-the-grid data centers including cryptocurrency mines, and I urge the staff and committee members to ask hard questions about what this bill is really about and put it into the staff analysis so the state doesn't greenwash crony capitalism. I also note that the bill excludes data centers in enterprise zones (i.e. tax-benefitted), which would apply to the large Facebook and Google data centers operating in the state drawing USBR hydropower, so it seems this bill is targeting a specific facility or group of facilities either for closure or for hooking up to the state's main utilities for reasons unknown, which really should be disclosed to policymakers before they vote on it.

On January 25, 2023, Intel cancelled plans for a "sustainable data center R&D facility" in Oregon in Hillsboro, so it seems that Oregon's policies are backfiring. With all our renewable forestland, Oregon is a giant carbon sink with a negligible output of global carbon emissions, but I suspect this bill has nothing to do with any of that.