

Submitter: Rand Schenck

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Measure: HB2816

Chair Marsh, Co-Chairs Levy, and Members of the Committee –

For the record my name is Rand Schenck.

I encourage you to pass HB 2816 with the amendments the proposers developed with significant stakeholder feedback. I support HB 2816 because I believe this is one piece of a larger puzzle in helping Oregon move away from reliance on fossil fuels

HB 2816 simply ensures that the goals of cleaning up energy generation in Oregon over time that were passed by the Legislature in HB 2021 are not undercut by data centers and crypto-currency companies with high-energy needs. Oregon will undoubtedly receive economic and social benefits from welcoming these industries into our state, and Oregon has much to offer them in energy costs, tax benefits, and undersea data cable access. Clearly, though, growth in this industry should not come at the cost of Oregon being unable to meet our statewide goals for clean energy generation.

Although the industry as a whole is voluntarily moving in the right direction with their clean energy goals, Amazon recently sought a permit from DEQ to build on-site gas-powered fuel cells to provide baseload power for three data centers. Reliance on methane is a major obstacle in the way of meeting our greenhouse reduction goals

Fortunately, most of these high-energy-demand companies are already publicly committed to doing better than the HB 2021 phase-in goals. HB 2816 will not affect these companies' plans for how they meet their energy demands, and the administrative requirements for confirming compliance would be minor.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify, and please support HB 2816.

Rand Schenck