

Submitter: Ann Turner

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Measure: HB2816

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

My name is Dr. Ann Turner and live in Portland. I am a physician, retired from a career in community health, working with underserved and minority populations, including farmworkers. I am a member of Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility where I focus on the intersection of climate, health and environmental justice.

I encourage you to pass HB 2816 with the amendments proposed. As a physician, I support this bill because climate solutions are health solutions. Rural communities, in general, have poor health status and outcomes and are, therefore, at greater risk from the impacts of both air pollution and climate change.

HB 2021 was landmark legislation, moving Oregon to 100% renewable energy by 2040. HB 2816 closes loopholes that data centers and crypto-currency companies with high energy needs could use to generate electricity from fossil fuels, primarily “natural” gas or methane. While encouraging these industries to locate in Oregon will be beneficial to local communities, both economically and socially, we must not allow them to generate the energy they need to pollute the air and generate the greenhouse gases that warm our climate and have already caused drought and devastating wildfires in our State.

Allowing fossil-fuel infrastructure to be built now means fossil fuel use for decades to come. Time is of the essence. We have very little time left to mitigate the impacts of climate change. HB 2816 would prevent this type of infrastructure and preserve Oregon’s energy goals.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

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