



February 22, 2023

Representative Pam Marsh, Chair  
Representative Emerson Levy, Vice Chair  
Representative Bobby, Levy, Vice Chair  
House Committee on Climate, Energy, and Environment  
900 Court St. NE  
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Oppose HB 2816, Relating to High Energy Use Facilities

Chair Marsh, Vice Chairs Levy and Levy, and members of the House Committee on Climate, Energy, and Environment:

We are writing you today to express our strong opposition to House Bill 2816. As legislators from Eastern and Central Oregon, we stand behind our communities and support our local economies. By only seeking to regulate the energy usage of high energy users within the service territories of public utilities and cooperatives, the impacts of this bill will only be felt in Eastern and Central Oregon. This would create inequity across the state, placing rural Oregon at a disadvantage economically, and threatening future development and investment in our districts.

We have heard from mayors, city managers, county commissioners, and other local officials throughout Eastern and Central Oregon who are concerned about the ramifications of this bill. Under the bill, if energy capacity is constrained, and the energy served to the high energy users does not meet the bill's requirements, those companies could be subject to tens of millions of dollars per day in penalties. The economic well-being of our communities now and into the future would be put at risk based on a fluctuating energy market. Our communities partner with data centers to provide economic opportunities that not only benefit our districts, but the state as well. Counties have carefully negotiated contracts with these companies to incentivize expansion and relocation to our state. In addition to fining businesses currently located here, the financial penalties in HB 2816 would damage our ability to draw new business.

From an energy perspective, HB 2816 upends the energy regulatory system that is managed to protect consumers. Our public utilities and cooperatives provide exceedingly clean power to our communities, while keeping rates affordable for customers. As rural Oregon continues to look for ways to encourage development and build opportunities to overcome economic challenges, this bill would alter the fundamental structure of our energy system without any regard for cost to the consumer, cost to the public utilities, or ability to comply.

For these reasons, we urge you to oppose HB 2816 in order to focus on moving Oregon toward a more equitable and prosperous future.



Respectfully,

Senator Bill Hansell

Senator Tim Knopp

Senator Lynn Findley

Senator Daniel Bonham

Senator Dennis Linthicum

Representative Vikki Breese-Iverson

Representative Greg Smith

Representative Mark Owens

Representative Bobby Levy

Representative Jeff Helfrich

Representative E. Werner Reschke