

Submitter: Byron Smith

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Measure: HB2816

Good afternoon, I'm Byron Smith, City Manager for the City of Hermiston, and I appreciate the opportunity to comment on HB 2816.

I wanted to start with thanking the proponents of the bill for their work to address our concerns with the bill. The changes proposed in the -1 and -2 amendments address many of our concerns. Unfortunately, they are not able to address all of our concerns. The challenge is that this bill targets one industry to attempt to assist the State in reaching their climate change goals. This industry has done a tremendous job bringing good family wage jobs to many rural communities across the state including Hermiston and our neighboring communities. Our county is one of the most diverse counties in the state and data center related jobs have had a very good impact on our region. We challenge the proponents to find another way to assist the state in reaching its climate goals.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment. We look forward to continued discussion with the sponsors, proponents, and impacted parties.