

Submitter: Jane Stackhouse

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Measure: HB2816

Members of the House Committee on Energy and Environment. I previously submitted testimony in support of HB 2816 to ensure that greenhouse gas emissions associated with electricity used by high energy use facilities are reduced to 100 percent below baseline emissions by 2040. I have just read the -3 amendment and, as I understand the amendment, I am almost ready to oppose it.

The -3 amendment establishes that the GHG emissions reduction requirements do not apply to high-energy-use facilities that first become operational before January 1, 2024. That's a great way to exempt the existing GHG big polluters and draw more polluting data centers and bit-coin data processors to Oregon this year. It also undermines the authority of the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) that is currently dealing with at least one offender of the current rules which were intended to prohibit their blatant use of methane to generate electricity. These data and crypto-currency centers are too big for individuals to influence. We are counting on you, each and everyone of our legislators, to create strong guard rails to protect our environment and especially rural areas from exploitation.

Yes, Oregon needs jobs but at what cost to future generations? When the data centers have been allowed to launch without ensuring clean electricity generation is available, huge quantities of GHG are created. Only the owners of these companies and a few special executives will have the financial wherewithal to survive the climate changes that are coming. The Oregon workers who perhaps eked a living wage out of the deal will be abandoned to more wild fire, more drought, more suffering. We must take a stand against this exploitation. Oregon needs to achieve our GHG reduction goals and set an example for the world to encourage other jurisdictions to do the right thing. Our economy is not going to collapse without crypto currency and we can set a standard for responsible data centers.

I envision a -4 amendment that makes the exemption of those facilities that become operational before January 1, 2024 temporary. Even though they misinterpreted current DEQ rules to claim their 'exemption' from GHG emissions we could give them some additional time to invest in clean renewable electric generation resources. I could wholeheartedly support HB 2816 with my proposed -4 amendment. As it stands, I fear that it undermines DEQ and puts us all in a position of selling our grandchildren to be exploited by crypto-currency.

Please revisit HB 2816-3 in your committee and resolve this huge loop-hole for bad actors. I understand the concern over retro-active legislation but the facilities build

before January 1, 2024 understand the intent of the law and the existential need to reduce GHG emissions and failed to build in a responsible manner. Clearly, they came to exploit not to employ. Let us make that exploitation short term but making the exemption TEMPORARY.