

Submitter: Mark Browning  
On Behalf Of: Blue Mtn CC  
Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment  
Measure: HB2816

Dear Committee Members,

I write to express my opposition and that of my organization to HB 2816.

HB 2816 directly attacks economic development in Eastern Oregon.

HB 2816 only targets data centers in Eastern Oregon and leaves harmless business west of the mountains. The data centers in Eastern Oregon generate incredible revenue for the cities and counties, provide jobs that would otherwise not exist, and fund much of our local economy.

That is why mayors, city/county managers, county commissioners, and other local officials in Eastern Oregon are extremely concerned about this bill.

As written, HB 2816 threatens to rip away key incentives from local governments to draw business.

If energy capacity is constrained and the energy served to the data centers does not meet the bill's requirements, the Enterprise Zone agreement that was negotiated between the county and the business would be eliminated.

The Enterprise Zone program is a tool to incentivize economic development - not to be used as a weapon.

As written, HB 2816 upends the energy regulatory system that was established to protect consumers.

Rather than finding ways to incentivize renewable energy development, this bill would leap-frog the utilities and tell the energy consumers to procure their own energy. It does so without any regard for cost to the consumer, cost to the public utilities, or ability to comply.

As written, HB2816 is inconsistent with Oregon's Clean Energy laws (HB 2021) and imposes massive penalties

HB2816 introduces climate targets above and beyond the ones required of the state's investor owned utilities.

Noncompliance would come at considerable cost – to the tune of tens of billions of dollars per year for any one company.

The bill is also discriminatory and proposes no responsibility for other large users.

Data centers, along with other companies in Oregon, have renewable energy goals – many are on the path to achieve them by 2030.

Amazon is the largest purchaser and investor in renewable energy in the world, followed by Google.

<https://time.com/6213666/amazon-renewable-energy/#:~:text=At%20the%20end%20of%202021,renewable%20energy%20in%20the%20world>.

The proposed amendment to grandfather in existing data centers and apply this to only new data centers is a clear signal from Oregon that they do not want new development. This is still bad policy and unprecedented.

Please recognize the impact of these businesses to our regional and state economy and vote NO on HB2816.

Thank You,

Dr. J. Mark Browning  
President  
Blue Mountain Community College