



March 20, 2023

TO: Members of the House Committee on Climate, Energy and Environment

FR: Sharla Moffett, Oregon Business & Industry

RE: HB 2816

Oregon Business & Industry (OBI) is a statewide association representing businesses from a wide variety of industries and from each of Oregon's 36 counties. Our 1,600 member companies, more than 80% of which are small businesses, employ more than 250,000 Oregonians. Oregon's private sector businesses help drive a healthy, prosperous economy for the benefit of everyone.

OBI opposes HB 2816. Our most basic concern is that the bill targets regulating specific business sectors in specific regions of Oregon thereby picking winners and losers in Oregon's economy. The amendments posted to date do not address this problem.

Myriad laws and regulations have been adopted in Oregon to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in recent years and there is a tremendous body of work that is at various stages of implementation to achieve these reductions.

The bill is aimed at data centers in Eastern Oregon, which have provided extensive economic opportunity, including revenue for cities and counties that fund essential services and jobs that would not otherwise exist. Eastern Oregon is already disadvantaged as compared to the more populous westside. We cannot imagine why policymakers would choose to restrict economic opportunities for one region of the state that does not enjoy the same economic privilege as another region does when so much policy discussion is focused on addressing the needs of underserved communities.

As referenced earlier, HB 2816 would also take the bold step of regulating energy *consumers* that are not able control the source of the energy they use. And the amendments do not address the precedent for holding end users accountable for energy requirements they don't control--launching an energy policy that moves regulation from utilities to specific industries. This also creates a patchwork of inconsistent requirements for various sectors.

OBI does not believe HB 2816 should move forward in any form. However, if the Legislature insists on rewriting state energy policy, at a minimum, it should not take place at the hurried pace it is being considered in this session.

We urge the committee to oppose HB 2816.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this concerning bill.