



Oregon Citizens'  
Utility Board

# HB 3546: POWER Act: Protecting Oregonians with Energy Responsibility

**Presentation for the Senate Energy & Environment Committee**

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# About Oregon Citizens' Utility Board

CUB is an independent membership-based, nonprofit organization that advocates for residential utility consumers. For 40 years, we have worked to keep Oregon utilities affordable, accessible, reliable, and clean.



To date, we have saved Oregon households over \$10 billion dollars.



# Struggling to Afford Energy Bills

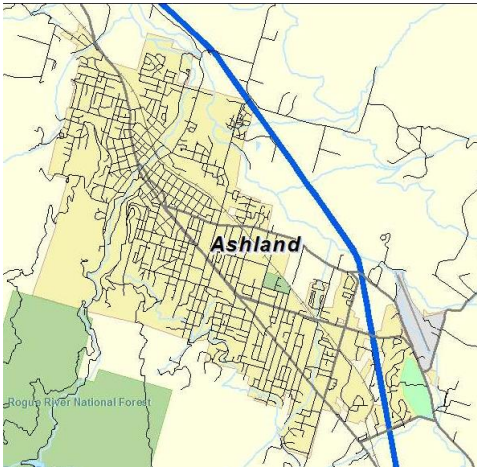
- **In 2024, for-profit utilities disconnected nearly 70,000 Oregon households** who could not afford to pay their energy bills
- Accounting for average Oregon household size, we can assume ~172,000 Oregonians were impacted—if **this disconnected population were a city, it would be the 4<sup>th</sup> largest city in Oregon**
- **1,989 electric commercial business customers (mostly small businesses) were also disconnected in 2024**; one utility saw more than 4x the disconnections from 2023 to 2024 for these customers



# Adding City Levels of Energy in 2 Years

## The Small Scale

- One 30MW data center would add the same electric load as that of Ashland's municipal utility



## The Big Scale

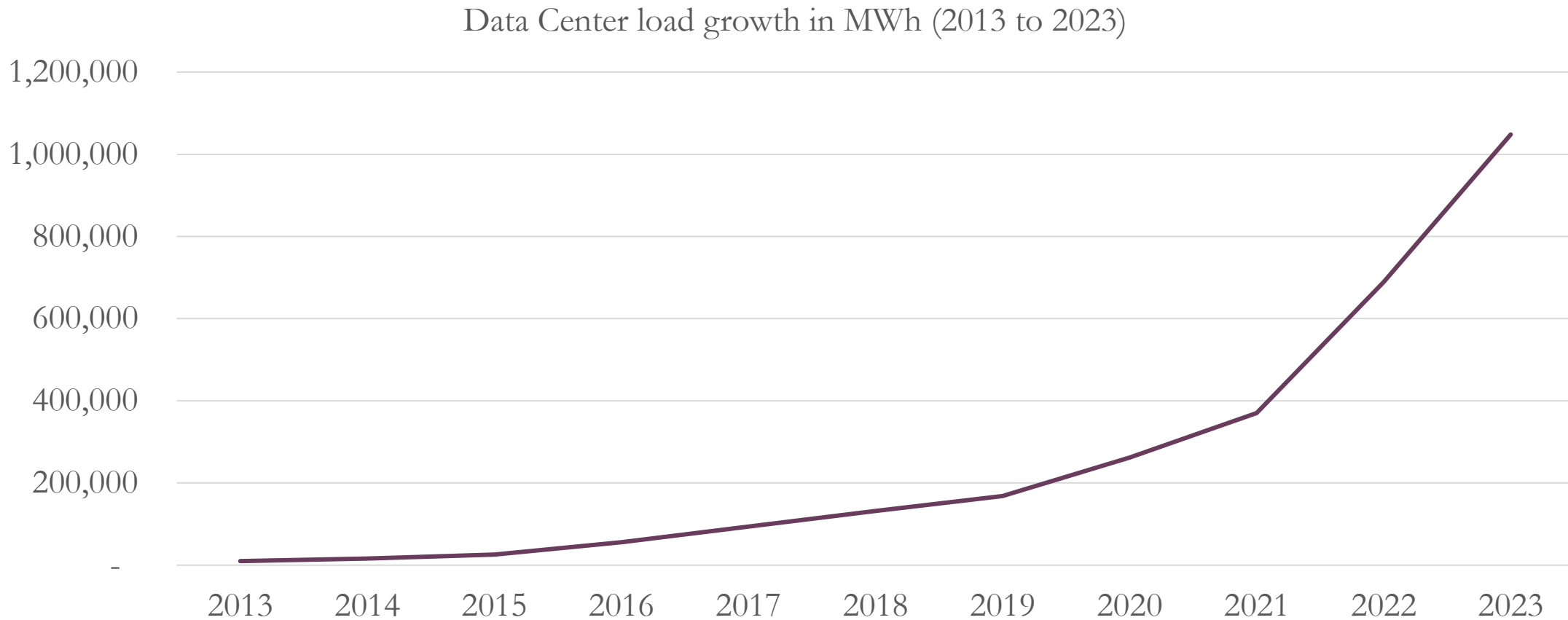
- An AI data center of 300MW would add the same electric load as Eugene Water & Electric Board



**When a data center comes online, we must build out enough to power a whole city – in just 2 years.**



# PGE Territory Data Center Load Growth *Over 10 years*



# Data Centers are Unique to the Grid

## *Regulate them as such*

- Unprecedented size (energy needs)
- Unique, inflexible load shape – always at peak
- Rapid pace to be built (18 months to 2 years)
- The number of data centers requesting service is unprecedented
- Never had a single set of customers account for all growth on the system
- Never had a set of customers adding this many new costs on the system this quickly

**Other large loads in the Industrial Customer Class are very different**



# A Data Center Rate Class is Fair and Reasonable

- Utility costs are assigned to rate classes
- Customers with unique cost implications – like irrigators and street lighting – have their own rate class
- Without a data center rate class we cannot assign data center costs to only data centers
- PGE has incurred \$210 million in *local* transmission upgrades to serve data center load — costs shared by all customers.

## 2024 PGE Rates

• Irrigation	23.6 cents/kWh
• Residential	19.6 cents/kWh
• Small Commercial	18.4 cents/kWh
• Industrial (Data Center current rates)	8.2 cents/kWh
• All Customers	15.0 cents/kWh



# POWER Act – Protecting Customers & the Grid: Tracking Growth & Trends

By September 1<sup>st</sup> of every even-numbered year through 2035, the PUC will provide a report to the Legislature:

- Review the growth and trends of the large load customers defined in the bill
- Review the growth and trends of other large load customers not captured by the bill
- The PUC may make recommendations to the Legislature based on this information

This reporting helps ensure **Oregon will be continue to be responsive in the face of emerging changes that can impact energy costs** for Oregon's households, small businesses, and large businesses.







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