

My name is Paulette Bierzychudek and I am an Oregon resident of House District 41. I write to offer my strong support for HB 3546, to be discussed at Thursday's hearing.

Today, customers of Portland General Electric pay 40% more for their power than they did just four years ago. This cost increase is being driven by data centers and other tech operations, which require 10-50 times the energy/floor space of more conventional commercial office buildings (<https://www.energy.gov/eere/buildings/data-centers-and-servers>). The largest growth in demand for electricity in the PNW is coming from data centers like Google and Amazon. The strain they place on our energy infrastructure requires utilities to invest in costly upgrades to meet that demand. Though the need for these upgrades is driven principally by the demands of for-profit data centers, their cost is currently being passed on to residential customers and small businesses as well. HB 3546 would require that large, for-profit energy users pay for their own energy needs instead of being subsidized by residential customers and small businesses, who are already struggling to pay their energy bills.

The Federal Energy Management Program has identified ways to design data centers that are more energy efficient (<https://www.energy.gov/eere/buildings/data-centers-and-servers>), but there is presently little economic incentive for the adoption of these measures. The passage of Bill 3546 will incentive data centers to adopt these efficiencies, in addition to relieving residential customers and small businesses from shouldering the cost of infrastructure construction.

For these reasons I urge your support of HB 3546. Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

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