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On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3546

On a basic level, it seems like common sense that if an entity uses more energy they pay more. But this is not the case in Oregon today. According to the Oregonian, companies like Google and Amazon have received over \$200 million in tax breaks to set up shop in our state (<https://www.oregonlive.com/datacenters/>). This is more than enough of an incentive.

My power bill has doubled in the past year, from \$981.30 to \$1624.11. Even when accounting for moments where I forgot to turn off the baseboard heater during cooler months or leaned a little too heavily on my AC during the warmer months, the power usage was roughly the same; 3709.8 kWh in 2023 and 3749.0 kWh in 2024.

This is a shocking rate hike. In no way should a similar amount of power cost me twice as much. I'm not using more power. I'm not a burden on the grid. Reporting from both the Oregonian and the Washington Post detail how these companies use our natural resources with impunity in addition to receiving these tax breaks (<https://protectpwc.org/2024/11/01/washington-post-as-data-centers-for-ai-strain-the-power-grid-bills-rise-for-everyday-customers/>).

A vote yes for this bill will rebalance the burden from the individual to these multibillion dollar entities. It would be silly to indulge their threats of capital flight, criminal to accept incentives to look the other way, and negligent not to pass this bill. Call their bluff. If they really want to leave and lose even more money doing so, fine. The Silicon Forest was doing just swell without them, anyways.