

March 6, 2025

House Committee On Energy and Environment  
900 Court St. NE  
Salem, Oregon 97301

Subject: Support for House Bill 3546

Chair Lively and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in **strong support of HB 3546: Protecting Oregonians With Energy Responsibility (POWER) Act**. The City of Milwaukie is committed to advancing climate resiliency and affordability for our residents. As residents in Milwaukie and across Oregon are already struggling with drastic increases to energy utility bills, the POWER Act ensures our families and small businesses do not have to continue subsidizing the energy costs for data centers.

Affordability is one of Milwaukie City Council's new goals for FY 2025-27. City Council's goal represents our commitment to providing utility relief for ratepayers. The POWER Act will ensure that large energy customers pay for utility infrastructure built to serve them, reducing the risk that residential and small commercial customers are impacted by these costs. Large energy users (data centers, bitcoin mining, and others) are putting significant strains on our electric utility grid. The costs of serving these customers is currently being shared across all rate payers, including residential and small commercial rate payers. Rate payers should not be left on the hook for meeting private sector data center growth. Meeting data center demand will require additional utility investment and infrastructure that residential and other rate payers should not be responsible for. The bill aligns with Milwaukie's commitment to affordability by ensuring that the costs of serving these large customers is paid for by the large customers who stand to profit from the energy access.

We look forward to continuing to engage in the important conversations taking place about ensuring that Oregon utilities can meet growing electricity demand without unfairly exposing residential customers to greater costs and risks. We appreciate your consideration of these comments and ask for your support of House Bill 3546.

Sincerely,



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Katie Gavares

Climate and Natural Resources Manager, City of Milwaukie