

# OREGON PSR

PHYSICIANS FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

March 6, 2025

To: House Committee on Climate, Energy, and Environment

Subject: Support HB 3546

Dear Chair Lively, Vice-Chair Gamba, Vice-Chair Levy, and Members of the Committee,

Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility (Oregon PSR) is an organization of over 2,000 health professionals and public health advocates working to address the gravest threats to human health and survival. Energy demand is growing rapidly in Oregon with energy-intensive data centers on the rise, putting a strain on the energy grid and customer pockets. For this reason, Oregon PSR is submitting testimony in support of the Protecting Oregonians With Energy Responsibility (POWER) Act (HB 3546). This bill ensures that large energy users like data centers and other big tech operations pay their fair share by requiring for-profit utilities to identify the costs that they are adding to the system.

Oregon's largest for-profit utilities have raised customers' bills by about 50% in four years. Oregon families, especially energy-burdened households, and small businesses are already struggling. They should not be footing the bill for giant corporations. The Public Utility Commission (PUC) and investor-owned utilities do not have the necessary tools to shield residential customers from grid infrastructure costs that big energy users will need moving forward to build transmission and resources to serve them. Protect families and small businesses from paying for data center-specific costs by supporting the POWER Act. Oregon PSR strongly urges you to pass HB 3546 out of the committee.

Sincerely,



Samantha Hernandez

*Healthy Climate Program Director*

