I have read this bill very carefully, and even though I am a lifelong Democrat and this bill is sponsored by a Democrat, I strongly oppose this bill.

The bill proposes to exclude from the taxable value of real property the cost of power generation and storage equipment. Let's break that down to cases:

a) Homeowners and small businesses: They should continue to use the existing framework for green energy programs, namely, the state partnership with Energy Trust of Oregon.

b) Large businesses (e.g., chip fabs, hospitals): They all have onsite power generation because either it makes economic sense (fabs) or is required for public safety (hospitals). They don't need this, and most of them already have the equipment already in place and fully depreciated (most of the fabs and hospitals in Oregon are not very new), so there is no need to provide any incentive, it would simply become a drain on local resources. Plus, in all cases that I know of, the backup power systems run on diesel, which is the second-dirtiest fuel used in America to generate power, after coal. We should not be encouraging more diesel power generation with subsidies of public funds.

c) Data centers, like those built out in Prineville. These, too, have onsite power generation as backup, because it makes economic sense for them to do so, and all of those backup systems are also diesel. The reason why I've broken them out separately is that, unlike the hospitals and fabs in (b), which are mostly located in urban areas, these data centers are mostly located in the most economically disadvantaged areas of Oregon, because the land is cheaper and they don't make anything, so they don't need to be close to population centers. And, since these data centers use a LOT of power, they need very large and expensive backup power systems. Excluding them from the property tax base would, in essence, be taking money from those counties' general funds and giving it to the data center operators, which are some of the largest and most profitable companies in the world, like Google, Amazon and Microsoft. For each million dollars removed from the tax base, the affected county would lose about $20K -- not just once, but every year going forward. And, although the bill does have an effective date, the date only applies to when the tax reductions are to take place; there is no constraint on when the power generation facility was built, so it would apply RETROACTIVELY to all data centers in Oregon. Thus, this bill would not only immediately and significantly reduce the property tax base in our most economically challenged counties, it would give this money away EVERY YEAR. In some counties, this would represent a permanent,

significant ongoing loss of revenue that could only be made up by cutting services or raising taxes, but since our economically disadvantaged counties almost never manage to pass ANY levies or bonds, the practical result would simply be loss of local services.

So, I ask the committee: Who are we (or you) to sit here in Salem and decide to rob our poorest counties of much-needed funds, just to give it to wealthy companies that already made their decisions to site their data centers here without this incentive? How would that be helping the people of our state, in any way at all? Has anyone asked the residents of, for example, Prineville, how THEY feel about this idea? And has anyone explained to them (e.g., in a town hall mtg.) how much it would cost their county?

I very strongly encourage you to go out to eastern Oregon and ask local residents what they think of this terrible idea, before doing anything to disadvantage them even further.

Or, you can just take my advice and OPPOSE this bill, and save yourselves the trouble.

Either way, thanks very much for your public service. Our democracy is the most valuable thing we Americans have, and we need to nurture it.