

OREGON WORKING FAMILIES PARTY

Testimony in Support of HB 3546A

To: Senate Committee on Energy and Environment

FROM: Annie Naranjo-Rivera, Oregon Working Families Party

April 30, 2025

Chair Sollman, Vice-Chair Brock Smith, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Annie Naranjo-Rivera, and I serve as the State Director of the Oregon Working Families Party. We are a grassroots political organization made up of community based organizations and unions who are committed to building a society that works for all of us, not just the wealthy and well-connected. We advocate for economic justice, racial equity, and a democracy that centers working people and their communities.

That is why I write to urge your strong support for **HB 3546A**, a bill that addresses the urgent need for corporate accountability in Oregon's energy landscape.

This legislation meets a moment of critical imbalance. As industrial-scale data centers accelerate their growth across Oregon, fueled by artificial intelligence and digital expansion, our public infrastructure is being stretched thin. These data centers already consume a staggering 11% of Oregon's electricity, more than double what all Portland homes use combined, yet they often benefit from discounted electricity rates while residential customers see their bills skyrocket.

This isn't just bad policy, it's a moral issue. Working families, low-income households and seniors on fixed incomes are absorbing the costs of grid upgrades needed to support corporate giants. Meanwhile, large companies raking in massive profits are not being asked to pay their fair share. This is the definition of corporate greed, privatizing the benefits while socializing the costs.

We believe HB 3546A is rooted in simple fairness: if a corporation is using energy at the scale of Oregon's largest urban center, it should bear the costs associated with

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that level of demand. The bill's mechanisms are smart, measured, and necessary, not punitive. These tools help ensure that the burden doesn't fall on the very people who are already struggling to keep the lights on.

At the Working Families Party, we stand with everyday Oregonians who believe in a fair economy, one where powerful interests don't get a free ride while everyone else picks up the tab. **HB 3546A** is a step toward better corporate accountability in a time when that seems harder and harder to find.

We respectfully urge you to support **HB 3546A**.

Sincerely,

Annie Naranjo-Rivera
State Director
Oregon Working Families Party