



Representative Hòa Nguyễn
Oregon House District 48

HB 3546 - POWER Act

4/30 Senate Energy

I am State Representative Hòa Nguyễn, for House District 48, which includes outer Southeast Portland and North Clackamas County.

I am here today in strong support of **HB 3546**, a bill that will protect consumers from footing the bill for energy-hungry data centers.

As the Representative of underserved communities in East Portland, I know that electricity rate increases have hit my constituents particularly hard. PGE rates have increased 40% since 2021, at a time where working families are already struggling. As we seek to address Oregon's ongoing cost-of-living crisis, cutting down on these significant rate increases is a key part of the conversation. The POWER Act does exactly that.

Over recent years, data centers have consumed more and more electricity. Over the last five years, the increase in energy usage from data centers has been the equivalent of providing power to more than 400,000 new people, and are now responsible for 11% of Oregon's total energy use. This new demand has overburdened Oregon's electric grid, requiring the development of new energy infrastructure. At the same time, these centers pay for electricity at an subsidized rate, causing costs to be passed on to individual consumers and households.

The POWER Act addresses these issues, and prevents Oregon consumers from being forced to pay more, despite playing no part in this increased data usage. It accomplishes this by establishing a new rate for these high-energy data centers and establishes charges for excess usage, ensuring that increased energy costs are not passed onto consumers, and requires data centers to pay for the new transmission lines made necessary by the increased burden of high electric demand on the electric grid.

I have personally heard from many of my constituents that the cost of living is their number one concern, and that skyrocketing electric rates are a huge faster. Data center energy usage is only expected to increase over the next decade, and if we do not act now to pass sensible reforms, ordinary consumers will continue to be squeezed, unless the Legislature implements meaningful reforms. The time is now to address these concerns, and make Oregon more affordable by passing the POWER Act.

Thank you for your consideration, and I urge your support.