

To: Senate Committee on Energy and Environment

From: Twila Jacobsen

RE: Support for HB 3546A

Date: May 5, 2025

---

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

My name is Twila Jacobsen, and I am a resident of Eugene, Oregon. I am submitting this testimony in strong support of HB 3546A. I write on my own behalf as a community advocate, adjunct professor of economics, and long-time labor leader. And now as a retired person living on a fixed income, I experience firsthand how critical it is to build systems that are not only efficient but equitable. Our energy system should be no different.

HB 3546A is a much-needed step toward fairness in our energy future. It ensures that large energy consumers — such as data centers, cryptocurrency operations, and other large tech operations—contribute their fair share toward the costs to build and maintain the infrastructure they require. For too long, Oregon households and small businesses have been subsidizing the energy needs of these massive operations. That must change.

Utilities have historically distributed infrastructure costs evenly across all customer classes. That model worked when growth was more predictable. But with the enormous and often unpredictable demands of large data operations, this system is no longer sustainable. We've already seen residential rates increase nearly fourfold between 2015 and 2024 — while the primary drivers of those costs have often been the energy needs of major corporate players.

HB 3546A will help correct this imbalance. It directs regulators to implement policies that assign appropriate costs to new, high-demand users and encourages those users to invest in local clean energy. Other states are already taking steps to protect their residents from bearing the costs of industrial energy demands. Oregon must not fall behind.

This bill supports Oregon's commitment to a clean, resilient, and just energy transition. By increasing transparency and ensuring large energy users pay their fair share, we can protect working families, encourage responsible corporate behavior, and build a more sustainable future.

I respectfully urge your support for HB 3546A.

Thank you for your time and consideration.