



Service Employees
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Local 503

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To: Senate Committee on Energy and Environment

From: Mike Powers, SEIU Local 503

RE: Support for HB 3546A

Date: May 5, 2025

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

My name is Mike Powers, and I am writing on behalf of our Union, SEIU Local 503. Our Union represents over 70,000 working Oregonians in every county in the state, primarily in the public service and care provider sectors.

As many have already noted, Oregon's energy landscape is rapidly changing. The explosive growth of energy-intensive data centers and other large technology operations is placing an unprecedented strain on our electric grid and driving up costs. Over the past four years, Oregon's largest for-profit utilities have raised customer rates by approximately 50%. Working families, low-income households, and small businesses — already stretched thin — should not be asked to subsidize the massive energy demands of corporate tech giants.

HB 3546A provides a key step toward fairness and transparency. It ensures that large energy users pay their fair share by directing utilities to clearly identify the system costs they create. The bill allows the Public Utility Commission to create a separate rate classification and tariff schedule for large energy use facilities, requiring these users to cover the costs of infrastructure upgrades — such as new transmission lines — that are built to meet their growing demand.

We appreciate the work done on the amendment as it further strengthens the bill by requiring the PUC to report on trends in energy use among these high-demand customers, helping Oregon anticipate and manage the long-term impacts on our grid.

This legislation reflects Oregon's commitment to a clean, equitable, and resilient energy future. By shifting the burden of cost to the corporations driving demand — rather than everyday consumers — we protect ratepayers and support responsible economic growth.

We urge your support for HB 3546A.

Thank you for your time and leadership on this critical issue.