

Submitter: Donna Maebori

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3546

Thank you for this opportunity to write to you in favor of HB 3546 A.

It is with alarm that I have watched the rapid growth of entities such as data centers and crypto currency sites, which consume very significant amounts of electricity and show rapid growth and expansion of such energy use. The door seems to be wide open for continued unmitigated expansion.

According to Forbes, "The International Energy Agency estimates that the power consumption of data centers and cryptocurrency mining will increase by 80% worldwide from 2022 to 2026. In the EU, data center power consumption could increase by 60% by 2030." (The Silent Burden of AI" by Yusuf Sar, August 16, 2024) Over to our own state, the Herald reported that Hillsboro is number four in our nation for concentration of data centers. And it reports that rates are inequitable. (Dirk Knudsen, April 23, 2025)

HB 3546 A is a needed beginning in addressing this situation, by establishing that entities that consume much electricity need to pay for that electricity. This bill, by way of having the Public Utility Commission (PUC) develop a classification of service for facilities that consume large amounts of energy, would beneficially alter the current situation where residential and other customers such as small businesses pay, in no small extent, part of the cost for the electricity used by large entities, which is not okay. If a facility uses X amount of electricity, it should be paid for by that facility.

Providing for this more equitable arrangement would mean residents who struggle to pay their bill will see a reduction in what they are charged, a move away from paying for someone else's electricity usage. It is a step in the right direction and needs to become law.

Thank you.