



Office of Representative Nathan Sosa
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Rep. Sosa and Rep. Marsh Introduce Legislation to Protect Consumers from Rising Utility Costs

SALEM, Ore. – Rep. Nathan Sosa (D-Greater Hillsboro) and **Rep. Pam Marsh** (D-Ashland) introduced two consumer protection bills aimed at rising utility costs.

- [HB3179](#), The FAIR Energy Act, introduced by Rep. Sosa, is designed to lower utility bills by requiring the Public Utility Commission to thoroughly consider the impact on consumers before approving a rate increase.
- [HB 3546](#), the POWER Act, introduced by Rep. Marsh, aims to hold large energy users accountable for paying for their own energy needs. This bill requires the Public Utility Commission to create new policies that help protect Oregon households from paying for high-energy users such as data centers and cryptocurrency mining facilities. It will also make for-profit utilities identify the costs that high-energy users are adding to the system. By creating a special category for these customers, state regulators can prevent Oregonians from covering the cost of these businesses.

“I have heard repeatedly from my constituents how frustrated they are with the dramatic and repeated increases in their utility bills. The scope of this problem is staggering. Over the past few years, electric and gas rates from investor-owned utilities have gone up by nearly 50%. This is not sustainable.

The bill would reform the rate-setting process in various ways to ensure that the interests of Oregon consumers are prioritized. The FAIR Energy Act is designed to prevent residents from continuing to be hit with repeated and historic utility rate increases,” said **Rep. Nathan Sosa** (D-Greater Hillsboro).

“Oregon utility customers should not have to bear the costs of enormous demand for power by data centers and other large energy users. HB 3546 requires those users to pay their fair share,” reflected **Rep. Pam Marsh** (D-Ashland).

Watch the hearing on HB3179 which took place on February 20th, 2025 ([Commerce and Consumer Protection House 2025 Regular Session - Oregon Legislative Information System](#)).

The House Committee on Climate, Energy, and Environment will hold a public hearing on HB3546 in the coming weeks.

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