



Oregon

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TO: House Committee on Energy and Environment

FROM: Anthony Buckley, Energy Development Services Division Director
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SUBJECT: House Bill 2344 – Public-Private Partnership Financing for Energy Projects

Background

The Oregon Department of Energy (ODOE) coordinates the Small-scale Energy Loan Program (SELP) and provides energy efficiency technical and business assistance to state and local governmental units for the construction and reconstruction of public buildings.

Oregon law does not explicitly provide ODOE with flexibility to enter into public-private partnerships and agreements.

What the bill does

HB 2344 provides ODOE the explicit authority to enter into public-private partnership agreements with state, local, tribal and federal governments and private entities for energy efficiency projects. These projects would contribute to the State's energy savings goal and would help meet the objectives of the State Building Innovation Lab and the Cool Schools programs. The agreements or other arrangements may include project financing, planning, acquisition, development, design, construction, reconstruction, replacement, maintenance, repair, leasing and operation of energy projects or other agreements.

The public-private partnership model for the State Building Innovation Lab would allow ODOE to prioritize and manage the needs for energy efficiency building upgrades under the private-public partnership model. Without the ability to retrofit hundreds of state buildings under one contract, the contracting and procurement process would be unmanageable.

Summary

HB 2344 provides clear authority for ODOE to enter into public-private partnerships that will increase participation by other state agencies, governments, and private organizations and entities in the development and financing of small scale local energy projects.