

**Testimony of Cameron Hamilton
Business Development Manager, Ameresco Quantum**

Before the Oregon House Committee on Energy and Environment

**Hearing Related to HB 2220: Requiring State Department of Energy to
develop strategic plan related to creation of energy conservation and
efficiency innovation laboratory**

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Chair Bailey, Vice Chairs and Members of the House Committee on Energy and Environment, thank you for the opportunity to testify today in regards to HB 2220, a bill to require the State Department of Energy to develop a strategic plan related to the creation of an energy conservation and efficiency innovation laboratory that promotes energy conservation and efficiency in buildings and groups of buildings owned or leased by the State of Oregon.

For the record, my name is Cameron Hamilton, and I am the Business Development Manager in Oregon for Ameresco Quantum, a subsidiary of Ameresco, Inc. Ameresco is a leading Energy Service Company in North America providing comprehensive energy efficiency and renewable energy solutions to federal, state, municipal, commercial and industrial clients. As the Northwestern business unit of Ameresco, Ameresco Quantum brings more than a decade of experience providing energy efficiency solutions to schools, communities, businesses and governmental entities in Oregon and the Pacific Northwest. Currently, our company is providing comprehensive energy efficiency solutions to Portland Public Schools and Reed College.

Ameresco is a member of the Northwest Energy Efficiency Council (NEEC) a business association of the energy efficiency industry. NEEC has a stated mission which is to promote policies and programs that enhance market opportunities for energy efficiency.

Today, I am here on behalf of Ameresco in support of HB 2220, a bill to create a strategic plan related to the creation of an energy conservation and efficiency innovation laboratory in Oregon. In Ameresco's view, HB 2220 is a bill which promotes leading by example. Through the creation of a state building innovation laboratory and a strategic plan to utilize this laboratory, Oregon state-owned buildings will have a comprehensive framework towards reducing their energy intensity by twenty percent over the next ten years.

HB 2220 will support the state's efforts to reduce its energy consumption, to restore its aging infrastructure, and to revitalize its state-owned buildings and facilities.



By creating and strategically deploying this laboratory, Oregon will identify and capitalize on opportunities to save energy and save capital expenditures which are currently spent towards maintaining and operating its buildings.

As Ameresco understands, this laboratory seeks to create a comprehensive framework to audit and assess viable opportunities for energy conservation in state-owned buildings, and seeks to create public-private partnership funding models to finance those energy efficiency improvements.

Such alternative financing mechanisms, including Energy Savings Performance Contracting, partner state agencies with private sector companies that have demonstrated experience in designing, arranging financing, and implementing energy efficiency projects for governmental agencies. Funding models such as performance-based contracting for energy savings enable public entities to revitalize their energy infrastructure without appropriated dollars.

HB 2220 also calls for the development of prequalification criteria for contractors who can provide bids or proposals for conservation and efficiency audits, energy conservations and efficiency retrofits. Ameresco supports the prequalification of such energy contractors.

HB 2220 would also require the identification of certain energy conservation and efficiency measures that increase energy savings by at least twenty percent more than established baselines over a period of ten years. Ameresco supports the state's efforts to reduce its energy intensity through the utilization of comprehensive energy conservation and energy efficiency measures in its state-owned buildings. Ameresco encourages this Committee and the State to take a holistic approach towards achieving energy savings.

In short, HB 2220 is an important next step in examining and addressing opportunities for energy savings throughout the state-owned building stock. By deploying a comprehensive plan which seeks to reduce the energy intensity of these facilities over the next ten years, Oregon can further support the environmental integrity of the region by saving energy and water, and reducing the emissions associated with inefficient building systems and aging infrastructure.

Again, Ameresco appreciates and thanks the Committee for this opportunity to testify on this energy efficiency legislation, and at this time I am happy to answer any questions members of this Committee may have.

