

May 18, 2016

Via Email

President Pro Tempore Ginny Burdick
Chair Senator Diane Rosenbaum
Vice Chair Ted Ferrioli
Senator Lee Byer
Senator Bruce Starr
Senate Interim Committee on Rules and Executive Appointments
900 Court St. NE, Salem Oregon 97301

Re: Lisa Hardie and Steve Bloom appointment to the Oregon Public Utility Commission

The Northwest and Intermountain Independent Power Producers Coalition ("NIPPC") and the Renewable Energy Coalition ("REC") appreciate the opportunity to present this testimony today on behalf of Lisa Hardie's appointment and Steve Bloom's re-appointment to the Oregon Public Utility Commission (the "Commission" or "OPUC").

NIPPC and REC are trade associations whose members include independent power producers active in the Pacific Northwest and Western energy markets. Both organizations represent the interests of their members in developing rules and policies that help achieve a competitive electric power supply market. NIPPC's members include fossil-fuel fired power plants, cogeneration, biomass, and renewable energy generators who build energy capacity and sell electricity to utilities and end use consumers. REC's members are developers and owners of small and community based projects, including irrigation, water and waste management districts, cooperatives, municipalities, corporations, and individuals.

Utility regulation is a tremendously complicated endeavor. Implementing the myriad of Oregon's energy laws in a way that achieves policy objectives, is legally compliant with both State and Federal law, and fairly addresses the needs of investor owned utilities, their customers, and others, such as renewable energy advocates is, to say the least, challenging. State public utility commissions and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission ("FERC") were established because special skills and knowledge are required to perform this vitally important public function.

NIPPC and REC are active before not only the OPUC but before commissions in other states and at FERC. As such, we have significant interest in knowing that the Commissioners, as the final arbitrators, have the knowledge, understanding, judgment, and experience necessary to perform their statutorily defined duties.

We appreciate Governor Brown's recognition of the important role the Commission serves in utility regulation, as reflected by her nomination of Lisa Hardie and Steve Bloom. We recognize that Ms. Hardie, through both her previous experience as an OPUC administrative law judge and in her prior legal practice, possesses the background we believe is necessary for a Commissioner. We are confident that Ms. Hardie is capable of working through the difficult issues and multiple, often competing, arguments to come to an informed and balanced decision regarding the business that comes before the OPUC. Commissioner Bloom's thoughtful and judicious approach as a regulator has made him well respected and worthy of a second term serving the state of Oregon.

Letter of Support for Lisa Hardie and Steve Bloom

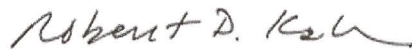
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A Commissioner also needs to work in a collaborative and constructive manner with their fellow commissioners. Commissioner Bloom has demonstrated these skills during his tenure on the Commission. Based on our knowledge of Ms. Hardie, we expect she will be capable of developing a good working relationship with her fellow Commissioners.

We appreciate your consideration of our comments, and support the Senate's confirmation of the nomination of Ms. Hardie and re-nomination of Commissioner Bloom.

Sincerely,



Robert Kahn

NIPPPC



John R. Lowe

REC