

Testimony in support of SB 477 on Behalf of Andy Maggi, Director of the Oregon Chapter of the Sierra Club

Oregon customers are either going to help pay for hundreds of million dollar upgrades to each aging out-of-state coal plant that requires pollution controls, or invest in new clean energy that helps to provide local jobs and economic investment in our region. Transitioning away from coal to clean energy aligns with Oregon values and helps us advance towards our state's GHG reduction goals. That's why 71% of Oregon voters polled in January support the coal to clean energy transition and thousands of Sierra Club members across the state want to see this legislation pass.

Yesterday, 200 citizens flooded this building to support the coal to clean transition. Sierra Club volunteers were joined by members of the Oregon Conservation Network, along with businesses, public health organizations, doctors, nurses, professors, and mothers. People are organizing in Portland, Bend, Eugene, Medford and across the state to end coal use in Oregon.

Oregonians are passionate about this legislation because it's a commonsense approach to moving off of a polluting, outdated energy source that is a primary contributor to climate disruption while opening up

space for more clean energy development in Oregon and across the region. Right now, Oregon's over-reliance on coal is stifling the renewable energy industry here at home. We send \$295 million dollars per year out-of-state to pay for coal energy when Oregonians have been clear that we should invest in more local clean energy jobs instead. Removing the coal from our electricity mix will allow renewable developers to get back to work.

This legislation will also incentivize utilities to create a serious regional coal transition plan that reduces climate pollution. Without strong state policy, Pacific Power, which gets two-thirds of its energy from out-of-state coal, will continue spending money almost exclusively on fossil fuels. At the Senate Environment & Natural Resources Interim Committee hearing in December, a representative from Pacific Power revealed their long term planning---

1. NO new renewable commitments before 2032,
2. Keeping coal in our mix until 2050,
3. Replacing all their coal with natural gas nearly 1:1, leaving their customers with 70% of their energy coming from fossil fuels by 2032.

Without legislative action- this is the future they plan for our state.

We can do better and many utilities across the country are already working hard to transition towards a cleaner electricity portfolio due to increasing regulatory and economic pressure on coal generation, plummeting renewable energy costs, state policies, and increasing consumer demand.

Pacific Power and PGE will benefit from having a clear signal that points them toward the right long-term investment choices. Oregon can join California and soon Washington in creating a coal-free West Coast that leads the rest of the country in the clean energy transition.