



**Portland General Electric Company**

121 SW Salmon Street • Portland, Oregon 97204

PortlandGeneral.com

Dear Members of Senate Finance and Revenue,

I represent Portland General Electric and we support the improvements to the Strategic Investment Program/Gain Share provided by Senate Bill 129-1. PGE is an important part of the success of Oregon and we believe the SIP/Gain Share programs are an important part of growing the economic strength of our region.

We are especially pleased to see SB 129-1 include additional funding for CTE programs in our local schools throughout Oregon. CTE and STEM are essential for training our future work force and have demonstrated impacts on the graduation rate for Oregon schools.

Oregon leans heavily on local communities for economic development, primarily through the Strategic Investment Program (SIP), which relies on cities and counties to assume risks and up-front costs. While the program has been hugely successful, it wouldn't enjoy that measure of success without Gain Share, which provides communities with the certainty needed to encourage their participation and an incentive to share in some of the income tax revenue these investments produce.

Attracting investment is critical to our ability to do business. Growth at the companies participating in the program spawns additional businesses and investments in existing companies, such as the cluster of high-tech businesses that work with Intel, and manufacturers of products related to wind energy facilities elsewhere in the state. For example, for every job created by an investment at Intel, three additional jobs are created elsewhere in the state.

The program's benefits apply to all Oregonians. For example, Intel's investment in Oregon generates \$650 million in tax revenue – enough to supply half of the education funding increase proposed in the co-chairs' budget for the biennium.

Under Senate Bill SB 129-1, changes have been proposed that will increase benefits for all of Oregon while protecting this crucial economic development tool. Funding from the local share will be reallocated from local governments to the State School Fund, CTE and Oregon State University statewide service programs, which offer particular benefits for rural communities.

I respectfully request that you support SB 129-1. We need it to continue economic development efforts that provide benefits for all Oregonians.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Varner Seaman", written over a horizontal line.

Varner Seaman  
Manager  
State Legislative Affairs