

## **HB 2187 Discussion Document for Senate Business and Transportation Committee**

- 1) Overview: The purpose of HB 2187 is to provide state policy direction to regional transmission planning bodies, pursuant to FERC Order 1000: that these bodies will consider and plan for marine renewable energy opportunities in their long-term planning processes. FERC Order 1000 requires that local and regional transmission planning processes must consider transmission needs driven by public policy requirements established by state or federal laws or regulations. Each public utility transmission provider must establish procedures to:

- Identify transmission needs driven by public policy requirements
- Evaluate potential solutions to those needs

Public policy requirements are defined as enacted statutes and regulations promulgated by a relevant jurisdiction, whether within a state or at the federal level.

- 2) Reason for this legislation: Oregon has established itself as the national leader in the emerging marine energy sector. The Oregon Wave Energy Trust, a state funded 501(c)3, has led Oregon's efforts in this promising new energy sector, by funding technology research and development, environmental studies, supply chain development, and other efforts to reduce barriers to market entry. OWET also has worked to improve the statutory and regulatory environment for ocean energy, and help establish the Oregon Territorial Sea Plan. In addition, OWET has worked with our regional partners to ensure that when this energy technology is commercially ready, the utility sector will be well positioned to integrate the electricity. As part of that effort, we have identified FERC Order 1000 as an excellent opportunity to help ensure that the regional planning bodies, including Columbia Grid and Northwest Tier Transmission Group, will begin to consider ocean energy in its long term planning. Energy generation along the coast has many benefits, including improving grid reliability, avoiding costly grid updates, and providing for generation that will improve economic development opportunity on the west side of the Coast Range.
- 3) Elements of this legislation: This bill simply establishes a state policy position that will ensure that, pursuant to FERC Order 1000 requirements, regional planning bodies will consider marine energy in their long term planning processes.