



• 1985 Country Club Road, Hood River, OR 97031 Phone (541)-386-3115 Fax (541)-386-9103 www.fidhr.org •

To: Rep. Vega-Pederson
Chair, House Committee on Energy and Environment

Re: Support for HB 4036 with Community Based Amendment

January 29, 2016

Chair Vega-Pederson,

I would like to express my support for the passage of HB 4036 with a very important amendment: to require that by 2025, at least 8% of Oregon's investor owned utilities' retail electrical load come from small-scale community renewable energy projects interconnected with an Oregon utilities' transmission or distribution system with a generating capacity of 20 MW or less.

I manage a small irrigation district in Hood River County that happens to have two hydro power plants within our irrigation system. Our plants are Low Impact Hydro certified and generate 26,000,000 clean and carbon free kilowatt hours per year. Our plants have been operating for 30 years and have provided revenue that has allowed over \$40 million in infrastructure investments. FID is now almost completely piped and pressurized, saving an enormous amount of water per year. We now divert half as much water per acre served as we did 30 years ago. 100% of our revenue from our small-scale community renewable energy project has stayed in our local economy and has supported our agriculture industry which is the largest sector of our economy.

Small-scale renewable energy projects provide vital jobs, improve the local economy, and provide valuable distributed green energy. The Community Based Amendment is good for Oregon and is in line with the values of Oregonians in rural and urban areas.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Les Perkins", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Les Perkins
Manager, Farmers Irrigation District