



OREGON CHAPTER SIERRA CLUB

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February 2, 2016

Representative Jessica Vega Pederson, Chair
Members of the House Energy and Environment Committee
Oregon State Capitol
Salem, OR 97301

Re: House Bill 4036 – Support

Chair Vega-Pederson, members of the committee,

The Sierra Club is our nation's oldest and largest grassroots environmental organization and our goals of protecting our environment and our health are also core values shared by Oregonians throughout our state. I am proud today to represent our 22,000 members and activists across our great state.

Here in Oregon, we are proud of our legacy as a national leader addressing the threat of climate change and expanding clean energy resources like wind and solar, but more can and must be done and Oregonians have time and again demanded action of their elected leaders and officials to combat climate change.

It is time to move our state away from dirty polluting energy of the past and toward more local, sustainable clean energy resources. That is the challenge before us today.

Coal-fired power plants are our nation's single largest source of carbon pollution. And yet while our state's lone coal-fired plant is on track to retire, our electric utilities continue to burn dirty, out-of-state coal for too much of our electricity with 34% of the electricity that powers our homes and businesses here in Oregon generated by outdated coal-fired power plants. In fact, most of those out-of-state coal burners are in need of significant and expensive pollution control upgrades to meet clean air standards, posing a financial liability to ratepayers here at home.

Public polling shows that Oregonians overwhelmingly want to stop paying for and supporting out-of-state coal and instead invest in clean energy jobs at home and in our region. House Bill 4036 finally unties our hands from the 24 aging and polluting coal burners of the west that supply our power while also raising the bar for our renewable standard so that we do not replace one fossil fuel with another.

For over a decade, Sierra Club members and activists have rallied on the steps of our great capitol and logged thousands of volunteer hours to contact legislators and public officials, attend dozens of hearings, visit with their representatives and educate the public about transitioning Oregon away from our reliance on dirty coal-fired power to more local, clean energy.



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Now, through the Clean Electricity and Coal Transition Plan, we have the opportunity to make real on that vision and to advance the clean energy solutions that Oregonians have been asking for.

Let's not miss this opportunity to make real and substantial strides in addressing the threat of climate change while also opening the market for more clean renewable energy.

I thank you for your time and consideration of this testimony, and urge your support of House Bill 4036, the Clean Electricity and Coal Transition Plan.

Sincerely,

Amy Hojnowski
Senior Campaign Representative
Beyond Coal Campaign
Sierra Club