

RENEWABLE ENERGY COALITION

“TOGETHER WE ARE STRONGER”

February 1, 2016

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

RE: Support for HB 4036 and AOC/ CREA-sponsored amendment

Chair Vega-Pederson-

The Renewable Energy Coalition represents fifty small renewable energy producing projects in five western states, many of which are located in Oregon. In Oregon, our membership is comprised of the ownership of existing small hydroelectric projects and one significant biomass facility. Our group's focus is participation with the utilities and public utilities commission in establishing workable regulation to support development and continued operation of our member's projects.

Several of our members have or are engaged individually in support of HB 4036. These include Three Sisters and Farmers Irrigation Districts. Several other irrigation, water control or special districts in Oregon are members of our Coalition and have a direct interest in HB 4036. These include Central Oregon, North Unit, Middle Fork, Lacombe, Eagle Point Irrigation Districts, Santiam Water Control District and Deschutes Valley Water District.

The Coalition supports HB 4036 and an amendment addressing the requirement that a prescribed component of non-utility owned renewable

energy be attained from existing and new projects. These small community based projects provide a wide array of local benefits including water conservation, fish habitat restoration, and in the case of biomass a large decrease in landfill disposal of wood wastes.

While a rapid transition to renewable energy away from coal derived electrical energy into Oregon is highly desirable, so is the retention of valuable existing renewable resources and the potential incremental increase of additional small "community" projects.

Thank you for your interest and efforts to move this important and game-changing legislation forward.

Sincerely-

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John R. Lowe". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

John R. Lowe, Executive Director
Renewable Energy Coalition
Portland, Oregon