



January 29, 2016

**TO:**

**Rep. Vega-Pederson**

Chair, House Committee on Energy and Environment

Cc: [Beth.Petrino@State.OR.US](mailto:Beth.Petrino@State.OR.US)

**FROM:**

**Jer Camarata**

General Manager/Secretary to the Board

Swalley Irrigation District

**RE:** Letter of Support for "Community-Based Amendment" to HB 4036

Dear Representative Vega-Pederson,

I am writing in strong support of a community-based amendment to HB 4036. The proposed amendment by CREA, AOC, and many others makes the current eight (8%) percent community renewable goal mandatory for the big utilities. We can make a big difference with a small change to HB 4036 by requiring community-based renewable energy generation to occur right here in Oregon.

The movement behind CREA's proposed amendment to HB 4036 is to give the proposed bill actual roots in Oregon for the support of our local and regional economies. We need to support community-based projects in Oregon, for Oregon, built by Oregonians if we want to keep this state both strong and authentically green. I encourage you to dive into the real **cost/benefits of Community-Based Renewable Projects and the jaw dropping trickle down economic and environmental benefits** that such an amendment could help foster. We're talking thousands of jobs, tens of millions of dollars, and priceless environmental conservation work. All right here in Oregon.

Small-scale hydropower and renewable power sales is virtually the only way that Irrigation Districts in this state are able to make improvements to their 100 year old water conveyance infrastructure. Such improvement projects have wide spread implications for job creation/retention, the environment, agriculture, water rates, and the general economy at large.

We urge you to support a Community-based Amendment to HB 4036, and give Oregon something that they can really be proud of.

Very Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "JC" followed by a flourish.

Jer Camarata  
General Manager/Sec  
Swalley Irrigation District

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