



January 29, 2016

Honorable Jessica Vega Pederson  
Chairman, House Committee on Energy and Environment  
900 Court St. NE, H-285  
Salem, OR 97301

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

Dear Chairman Vega Pederson:

I am writing in support of a community-based amendment to HB 4036. The proposed amendment by CREA, AOC, and 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 to occur right here in Oregon.

TSID's 700kW in conduit hydro project is essential to Salmon and Steelhead recovery in the Deschutes Basin. To date TSID has piped 50 of the 63 miles of open canals in the District. This has allowed TSID to protect over 20 cfs in Whychus Creek that prior to 1997 we dried up every summer. Prior to the Round Butte/ Pelton Complex being built, Whychus Creek was essential to Steelhead and Salmon spawning habitat. In order to pipe and restore stream flows TSID has borrowed millions of dollars from DEQ's Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund (CWSRF). The revenues from our clean green renewable hydro facility are what is paying back our CWSRF loans. Without our community-based renewable project there would be no measurable Salmon and Steelhead Recovery in Whychus Creek. As you will see from the attachments the list of benefits to Sisters, Deschutes County and Oregon are immense. In addition the piping is allowing TSID to adapt for climate change.

We urge you to support a "Community-Based" amendment to HB 4036, and give Oregonians something else for which they can be proud.

Sincerely,

*Marc Thalacker*

Marc Thalacker,  
District Manager

cc: Beth Patrino, Committee Advisor

P. O. BOX 2230 SISTERS, OR 97759  
[manager@tsidweb.org](mailto:manager@tsidweb.org)

541-549-8815 (OFFICE)

541-549-8070 (FAX)  
[office@tsidweb.org](mailto:office@tsidweb.org)