

3Degrees  
American Wind Energy Association  
Atkins  
Bonneville Environmental  
Foundation  
Center for Energy Efficiency &  
Renewable Technologies  
Citizens' Utility Board of Oregon  
Climate Solutions  
Columbia Gorge  
Community College  
Community Renewable  
Energy Association  
DNV GL  
EDF Renewable Energy  
EDP Renewables  
Environment Oregon  
Environment Washington  
Eurus Energy America  
EverPower  
GE Energy  
Geothermal  
Resources Council  
Green Mountain Energy  
HDR Engineering, Inc.  
Iberdrola Renewables  
Idaho Conservation League  
K&L Gates  
Kapla Law PLLC  
MAP  
Montana Environmental  
Information Center  
MontPIRG  
Natural Resources  
Defense Council  
NextEra Energy Resources  
Northwest Environmental  
Business Council  
Northwest SEED  
NW Energy Coalition  
OneEnergy Renewables  
Oregon Solar Energy  
Industries Association  
OSPIRG  
Oregon Tech  
Orion Renewable Energy  
Group LLC  
Portland Energy  
Conservation, Inc.  
Principle Power  
REC Silicon  
RES America Developments  
Solar Oregon  
Stoel Rives, LLP  
SunPower Corporation  
Vestas Americas  
Warm Springs Power &  
Water Enterprises  
Washington Environmental Council  
WashPIRG  
Western Resource Advocates



**Testimony of Rachel Shimshak, Executive Director, Renewable Northwest  
Senate Committee on Business and Transportation, Supporting HB 4036A  
February 17, 2016**

Good morning Chairman Beyer and members of the Committee.

My name is Rachel Shimshak, and I am the Executive Director of Renewable Northwest, a regional advocacy organization of businesses and public interest groups working to advance responsible renewable resources in the Pacific Northwest.

I am here today to voice our strong support for HB 4036A, a bill that will support the economy and the environment.

HB 4036A marks an historic moment for Oregon. It captures the will of the people to clean up our energy supply and puts us firmly on a path to grow our generous endowment of renewable energy resources to meet our needs. It sends the message that our citizens are ready to transition away from coal resources to a future that keeps the air clean, and supports our treasured quality of life. It continues our tradition of leadership on clean energy.

The current Renewable Standard has given us 8 years of experience in increasing the amount of clean energy in our portfolio. It is a proven policy that has delivered real benefits at modest cost. This bill continues the sustained, orderly development of renewables that has helped our state benefit economically. Projects that have located in rural parts of the state have generated \$150 million in local county benefits, and paid landowner royalties to those farmers and ranchers sponsoring wind, solar, and geothermal projects on their land. That helped sustain those areas and families especially during the great recession. The counties have been able to invest in education programs, public safety, roads, and even given money back to year-round residents (Sherman County).

The positive business climate from the RPS helped attract renewable energy manufacturers, developers, marketers, environmental, and permitting consultants to the urban core as well. It isn't often that a single policy grows the economy in both rural and urban areas. The ramp up to the 50% standard in the bill will continue to attract and keep businesses here.

The dramatic drop in prices for wind and solar over the past five years bodes well for the affordability of the proposal. We commissioned our own financial analysis that showed that implementing HB 4036A is low cost. The bill provides utilities incentives for early action on renewables. The federal government serendipitously helped us underscore this element by extending the federal tax credits for solar, wind and other renewables helping us move forward at even lower cost to customers.

An increased Renewable Standard helps reduce carbon because utilities will always choose the resource with no fuel costs first as they dispatch their system. Each time a wind or solar resource generates a kwh it reduces/displaces fossil fuels in the supply. And that reduces emissions. The more renewables, the less fossil fuel that is burned. Because there are no fuel costs, renewables are like a 30-year mortgage—you know their price at the beginning and it is stable over its lifetime. There is no fuel price volatility.

The intention of the Renewable Standard is to influence the resources utilities use to meet their customers' needs. These decisions affect the power supply for 30-40 years. Without this bill, we might just replace one fossil fuel for another. HB 4036A insures that renewables will make up a substantial portion of the replacement power as coal units retire. We consider that a "no regrets" policy, and that makes a big difference for emissions also.

HB 4036A provides certainty for the utilities and for the market for new resources. When both utilities know that they have to get coal out of the supply and increase renewables, they can turn their attention to getting the job done in the most cost-efficient way instead of worrying that they might be doing something the other one isn't.

Other features of the bill underscore the importance of cost effective energy efficiency and demand response that will help balance the system, and also calls for a Community Solar program to provide access to solar resources for those who may not have a suitable roof, including those in the low income community.

Before I close, I want to say how remarkable it is that the disparate parties who regularly spar with each other in the regulatory process were able to find common cause on this bill. The parties worked hard and honestly with each other. I believe we arrived at a proposal that paves an Oregon path to a clean energy future, one that reflects our history, our experience, our people and our values.

Thank you.