



March 8, 2017

Representative Ken Helm, Chair  
House Energy and Environment Committee  
Oregon State Capitol  
Salem, OR 97301

**Re: HB 2471**

Chair Helm and Members of the Committee,

We write in opposition to HB 2471 as potentially weakening Oregon's renewable portfolio standard (RPS), a necessary arrow in the quiver of policies fighting climate change in Oregon.

Climate Solutions is a regional non-profit working to accelerate practical and profitable solutions to global warming. Climate Solutions strongly supports the transition from fossil fuels to clean, renewable energy as essential to achieving Oregon's legislated greenhouse gas reduction goals and safeguarding the health and wellbeing of all Oregonians. Founded in 1968, the Oregon Environmental Council (OEC) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, membership-based organization. OEC advances innovative, collaborative solutions to Oregon's environmental challenges for today and future generations.

Climate Solutions and OEC are founding members of Renew Oregon, a diverse coalition of more than 160 businesses, non-profits, faith, and community organizations working to create a clean energy economy in Oregon. Last session, Renew Oregon supported SB 1547's effort to rid our energy supply of coal, grow the clean energy economy through a doubling of the RPS, and address the urgency of the climate crisis.

The RPS accelerates the path to clean energy, while protecting ratepayers and creating new economic opportunities for our state. The RPS strengthened under SB 1547 allows for an orderly ramp up in renewable energy generation in response to rapidly declining costs for solar and wind, and rising costs for coal and fossil fuels.

Oregon is now positioned at the forefront of the clean energy transition nationwide. Coupled with our existing hydropower capacity, the 50% RPS can make Oregon one of the cleanest energy states in the nation by 2040. SB 1547 put Oregon's two largest utilities firmly on the path to meeting their share of Oregon's greenhouse gas reduction goals, while reducing risks to ratepayers.

HB 2471 threatens to weaken the strong RPS in place. A customer or load could conceivably choose an acquiring utility that does not have to meet the RPS for 10 years. This would dilute the requirement driving procurement of solar and wind energy at time when clean energy solutions are needed more than ever. This extension of RPS compliance when a utility acquires a customer or load from one to ten years was not contemplated in the formulation of SB 1547.

We urge you not to vote for this bill.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,



Meredith Connolly  
Oregon Policy Manager  
Climate Solutions



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Program Director, Climate  
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