



March 16, 2017

Oregon Conservation Network Testimony on HB 5009- ODOE Budget

Senator Lew Frederick and Representative Brad Witt, Co-Chairs  
Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Natural Resources  
Oregon State Capitol  
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Chairs and Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 5009, the budget bill for the Oregon Department of Energy (ODOE).

The Oregon Conservation Network (OCN) is coordinated through the Oregon League of Conservation Voters. OCN is a coalition of nearly 40 not-for-profit organizations throughout the state, united to advocate for pro-conservation legislation and to fight policies that threaten our state's natural legacy. OCN is powered by tens of thousands of Oregonians who belong to their membership organizations. We work to protect funding for natural resource agencies and programs, as well as policy that will ensure a better Oregon for our children.

We strongly encourage your support and approval of HB 5009, the ODOE's proposed 2017-2019 budget. It is crucial that Oregon leads the way to an energy efficient future. ODOE is vital to the future of Oregon's mission to promote renewable energy and develop clean energy resources. As the Legislature and Governor's Office considers reductions to ODOE's budget, we encourage the consideration of ODOE's immense value in clean energy and conservation efforts. ODOE is in the unique position to provide technical expertise and resources, data collection, and oversee compliance. We also support ODOE's incentives for renewable energy and energy efficiency to encourage changes to move toward a more energy efficient future. Furthermore, we support the Energy Facilities Siting Council and the important work it does.

With a federal administration that does not appear to cherish the same values we as Oregonians hold dear, we must work harder than ever at the state level to protect our natural resources for generations to come.

In conclusion, we ask that the Subcommittee support HB 5009 and approve ODOE's proposed 2017-2019 budget. We believe ODOE's work is of vital importance to our members and the invaluable services it provides for the future of all Oregonians.

Sincerely,

Paige Spence  
Director, Oregon Conservation Network  
Oregon League of Conservation Voters