

March 20, 2017

TO: Representative Ken Helm, Chair, House Committee on Energy and Environment
Members, House Committee on Energy and Environment

FR: Rikki Seguin, Policy Director, Renewable Northwest

RE: Support of HB 2020

Dear Chair Helm:

Renewable Northwest is a regional, non-profit renewable energy advocacy organization based in Oregon. **We are pleased to support HB 2020, a bill to support the Oregon Department of Energy and refocus its mission to better support the state in meeting both its energy policy and greenhouse gas reduction goals.**

Our members are a combination of renewable energy businesses and environmental and consumer groups. We advocate for the expansion of environmentally responsible renewable energy resources in the Northwest through collaborations with government, industry, utilities, customers, and advocacy groups. Our organization shares a positive and productive relationship with the Oregon Department of Energy (the Department) with the goal of ensuring that the benefits renewable resources bring to Oregon are fully realized. Renewable Northwest, together with energy stakeholders across the state, collaborates with the Department in both the policy and regulatory arenas.

The Department fills a crucial role in the study, design, and implementation of renewable energy policies in Oregon, and is uniquely qualified and positioned to help the state achieve its energy policy goals. **Given the strong correlation between climate and energy, we support HB 2020's aim to better link energy generation and consumption with the state's greenhouse gas reduction goals.** This connection, and the Department's reorganization into the Oregon Department of Energy and Climate, will allow for high quality analysis and technical expertise on the two related subjects that can be applied to policy development, implementation of rulemaking, and compliance tracking.

As we face a changing energy future, with the state moving away from coal-fired resources and toward a 50% renewable energy standard, and as the state considers its role in addressing climate change head on, it will be critical to have an agency focused on the both climate and energy, as well as their undeniable link.

We are supportive of the formation of the Oregon Energy and Climate Board as an oversight and advisory body for the Department. While encouraging the Board to remain small in size, we do suggest changes to the board make-up, including:

- Creating two positions for "member[s] from an institution of higher education in Oregon with expertise in energy and climate issues" – one expert on climate issues, one on energy issues;
- Better clarification regarding the "member with expertise in transportation issues," perhaps as transportation issues relate to energy and/or climate;

3Degrees
American Wind Energy Association
Avangrid Renewables
Bonneville Environmental
Foundation
Center for Energy Efficiency &
Renewable Technologies
Citizens' Utility Board of Oregon
Climate Solutions
Columbia Gorge
Community College
Community Renewable
Energy Association
Cypress Creek Renewables
DNV GL
EDF Renewable Energy
EDP Renewables
Environment Oregon
Environment Washington
Eurus Energy America
GE Energy
Geothermal Resources Council
Green Mountain Energy
HDR Engineering, Inc.
Idaho Conservation League
Invenergy
K&L Gates
Kapla Law PLLC
Latitude45 Associates
MAP
Montana Environmental
Information Center
MontPIRG
National Grid
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
Scout Clean Energy
Solar Oregon
Stoel Rives, LLP
SunPower Corporation
SWCA Environmental Consultants
Vestas Americas
Warm Springs Power &
Water Enterprises
Washington Environmental Council
WashPIRG
Western Resource Advocates

**Renewable Northwest
Members**

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- 3Degrees
- American Wind Energy Association
- Avangrid Renewables
- Bonneville Environmental Foundation
- Center for Energy Efficiency & Renewable Technologies
- Citizens' Utility Board of Oregon
- Climate Solutions
- Columbia Gorge Community College
- Community Renewable Energy Association
- Cypress Creek Renewables
- 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.
- Idaho Conservation League
- Invenergy
- K&L Gates
- Kapla Law PLLC
- Latitude45 Associates
- MAP
- Montana Environmental Information Center
- MontPIRG
- National Grid
- 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
- Scout Clean Energy
- Solar Oregon
- Stoel Rives, LLP
- SunPower Corporation
- SWCA Environmental Consultants
- Vestas Americas
- Warm Springs Power & Water Enterprises
- Washington Environmental Council
- WashPIRG
- Western Resource Advocates

- 1-2 at large members who can represent the Governor's objectives as the state moves toward its energy policy and greenhouse gas reduction goals.

Renewable Northwest applauds the good work of the Oregon Global Warming Commission, and supports its transition into the Interagency Climate Coordinating Committee. As multiple state agencies consider their role in meeting the state's energy policy and greenhouse gas reduction goals, we appreciate the support the Committee's role in evaluating and coordinating myriad state agencies in their efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, consistent with the state's greenhouse gas reduction goals.

We ask that the Committee support HB 2020, which will lead to a Department that is forward-looking and well-equipped to assist the state in meeting its energy policy and greenhouse gas reduction goals.

Sincerely,

Rikki Seguin
Policy Director
Renewable Northwest