

Advocates for the West
Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians
AirWorks, Inc.
Alaska Housing Finance Corporation
Alliance to Save Energy
Allumia
Alternative Energy Resources Organization
American Rivers
A World Institute for a Sustainable Humanity
Beneficial State Bank
BlueGreen Alliance
Bonneville Environmental Foundation
Centerstone
Citizens' Utility Board of Oregon
City of Ashland
City of Seattle Office of Sustainability & Environment
Climate Solutions
Community Action Center of Whitman County
Community Action Partnership Assoc. of Idaho
Community Action Partnership of Oregon
Drive Oregon
Earth and Spirit Council
Earth Ministry
Ecova
eFormative Options
Emerald People's Utility District
Energy Savvy
Energy Trust of Oregon
Environment Oregon
Environment Washington
HEAT Oregon
Home Performance Guild of Oregon
Home Performance Washington
Housing and Comm. Services Agency of Lane Co.
Human Resources Council, District XI
Idaho Clean Energy Association
Idaho Conservation League
Idaho Rivers United
Interfaith Network for Earth Concerns
League of Women Voters Idaho
League of Women Voters Oregon
League of Women Voters Washington
Montana Audubon
Montana Environmental Information Center
Montana Renewable Energy Association
Montana River Action
National Center for Appropriate Technology
Natural Resources Defense Council
New Buildings Institute
Northern Plains Resource Council
Northwest Energy Efficiency Council
NW Natural
NW SEED
OneEnergy Renewables
Opower
Opportunities Industrialization Center of WA
Opportunity Council
Oregon Energy Coordinators Association
Oregon Environmental Council
Oregonians for Renewable Energy Policy
OSEIA
Pacific Energy Innovation Association
Pacific NW Regional Council of Carpenters
Portland Energy Conservation Inc.
Portland General Electric
Puget Sound Advocates for Retired Action
Puget Sound Cooperative Credit Union
Puget Sound Energy
Renewable Northwest
Save Our wild Salmon
Sea Breeze Power Corp.
Seattle Audubon Society
Seattle City Light
Seinergy
Sierra Club
Sierra Club, Idaho Chapter
Sierra Club, Montana Chapter
Sierra Club, Washington Chapter
Small Business Utility Advocates
Smart Grid Northwest
Snake River Alliance
Solar Installers of Washington
Solar Oregon
Solar Washington
South Central Community Action Partnership
Southeast Idaho Community Action Partners
Spokane Neighborhood Action Partners
Sustainable Connections
The Climate Trust
The Energy Project
UCONS, LLC
Union Of Concerned Scientists
United Steelworkers of America, District 12
US Green Building Council, Idaho Chapter
Washington Environmental Council
Washington Local Energy Alliance
Washington State Department of Commerce
Washington State University Energy Program
YMCA Earth Service Corps



March 20, 2017

Chair Helm and Members of the House Committee on Energy &
Environment
Oregon State Capitol
Salem, OR 97301

Re: HB 2020

Dear Chair Helm and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the NW Energy Coalition, I am writing to express support for HB 2020 pertaining to Oregon Department of Energy oversight.

The NW Energy Coalition is an alliance of about 100 environmental, civic and human service organizations, progressive utilities and businesses in Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Montana and British Columbia. We promote development of renewable energy and energy conservation, consumer protection, low-income energy assistance, and fish and wildlife restoration on the Columbia and Snake rivers.

A well-functioning Department of Energy is essential to effectively plan for and manage statewide energy concerns. The scope of activity encompassed in the energy field is not only critical to the future of our state, but also is a field that is rapidly changing as technologies and markets evolve with increasing speed. This underscores the need to have a strong, knowledgeable statewide agency that can provide information, planning and other support to the legislature and governor, other agencies, stakeholders and citizens.

HB 2020 takes important steps toward restructuring and organizing the critical work of the agency to guide statewide energy matters in an effective and efficient manner. The inclusion of a focus on climate change is critical -- the energy sector is a key contributor to greenhouse gas emission in Oregon and thus an important part of climate solutions, mitigation and adaptation efforts. We especially support the Interagency Climate Coordinating Committee called for in this bill; coordination among agencies is essential to effective and efficient information and action on climate related matters.

Thank you for the opportunity to express our support for HB2020. We look forward to engaging in discussions around the specific components of this bill and providing additional input on other related bills concerning the future of the Oregon Department of Energy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W Gerlitz". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Wendy Gerlitz
Policy Director