



## HB 2020 Establishing Oregon Energy and Climate Board

Thanks to business and ratepayer investments, Oregon's economy is one of the cleanest, least carbon intensive economies in the country. We are a national leader providing low greenhouse gas emission energy to consumers without relying on nuclear energy resources like many other states. However, to continue to lead, we must ensure that our policies and resources are carefully directed toward productive outcomes. HB 2020 proposes to compromise those objectives and limited ratepayer dollars while detracting from our overall economic objectives.

As such, for the following reasons, **the undersigned urge you to OPPOSE HB 2020:**

- HB 2020 proposes to create a super-board that will take away important oversight roles of other state boards and commissions. Before the legislature hurriedly creates a new super-board and mega agency, more work needs to be done to determine the right-size and right role for Oregon Department of Energy (ODOE). It serves us well to take our time to make ODOE a well-functioning agency.

- The legislature has already established specific boards and commissions to guide and govern state agencies with specific objectives. Those governance structures do not need a new, overarching board to either remove existing board/commission authority or provide conflicting guidance.
- The committee process examining ODOE ended prematurely last summer and the committee failed to reach consensus on key issues, including the overlap between ODOE's mission and ongoing work of other agencies, utilities and our partners. Consequently, the over 15 bills (including HB 2020) need additional work with stakeholders.
- This bill would authorize ODOE to grow at an exponential rate on the backs of people paying their electric and natural gas bills. Through the Energy Supplier Assessment (ESA), ratepayers – not tax payers – are being asked not only to support a new mega agency, but also fund ODOE's rent, building maintenance, litigation expenses, build their ending fund balance and more. For instance, ODOE's ESA budget 17-19 biennium is almost 20% more than the previous two years. This growing tax is directly at odds with the goal of making Oregon an affordable place to live and work.
- Moreover, HB 2020 ties the hands of all state agencies by making the greenhouse gas reduction goals mandatory and could stop important energy projects for customers and communities.
- Without first fixing well-known and documented problems at ODOE, this proposal will only spread dysfunction, create new state programs, and detract resources from other already underfunded state agencies.

**Please vote NO on HB 2020**