



April 3, 2017

Senator Lee Beyer, Chair
Senate Committee on Business & Transportation
Salem, OR

Dear Senator Beyer,

The Northwest Energy Efficiency Council (NEEC) strongly opposes SB 656, SB 657, and SB 659. NEEC is a non-profit industry association representing companies that provide energy efficient products and services to homes, businesses, industry, and farms throughout Oregon. As an over two-decade old industry association, NEEC has worked in collaboration with the Energy Trust of Oregon to help Oregonians reduce their energy cost, increase their productivity, and reduce their environmental footprint.

In our view, the Energy Trust of Oregon is highly efficient and effective organization. The organization is governed by an engaged and voluntary Board of Directors drawn from a wide spectrum of experienced Oregonians who ensure that the Trust operates as an effective steward of funds generated by Oregon's public purpose charge. Moreover, the Oregon Public Utility Commission is actively engaged in oversight of Trust activities. Through two standing advisory committees, one for renewable and one for energy efficiency, the Trust receives monthly input from a diverse set of stakeholders across the state.

The result is an organization that delivers highly cost effective clean energy resources that improve the state's economic competitiveness and its environment. The suite of bills (656, 657, 659) seem to address problems that don't exist. If the Trust was an inefficient and ineffective steward of public funds, then that problem would be the center of attention at the Oregon PUC, at its independent-minded Board of Directors, and by the public at large. It isn't. If the public funds were not achieving results, then the Trust would not be considered a national model of energy effectiveness in clean energy. It is.

We encourage the Committee on Business and Transportation to reject these three bills.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stan Price", is written over a horizontal line.

Stan Price, Executive Director