

Joanie Deutsch: SB 979 – Support Testimony

Good afternoon Chair Beyer and members of the committee. Joanie Deutsch, Executive Director for the Northwest for TechNet here in support of SB 979.

TechNet represents the nation's leading technology companies and we are proud to support SB 979 for its promotion of customer choice, support for innovation and empowerment and a step forward in bringing Oregon energy policy to the 21st century.

The high tech industry in Oregon is committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and expanding the use of renewable energy in the near term.

Customer choice for electricity – commonly referred to as Direct Access – should not be considered a privilege **but** should be the **right** of Oregon businesses who

1. are looking for ways to cut energy costs,
2. want and need to increase the renewable content of their energy mix,
3. will benefit from tailoring the investments into clean energy technologies and maximizing cost efficiencies and
4. are sophisticated enough to make energy purchasing decisions to best accommodate the way that they – as a business - use electricity.

TechNet member businesses greatly value bringing on new renewable power above and beyond Oregon's RPS.

SB 979 removes obstacles inhibiting full implementation of a renewable energy direct access program precisely in the manner our member companies seek.

Oregon businesses are ready to accelerate their use of renewable energy thereby shrinking the utilities' RPS obligations while driving down the future costs of clean energy. Our members are ready to invest in renewables.

Oregon's 50% is commendable but many businesses want to go to 100% now and show their customers, shareholders and employees that they are unquestionably added new renewable energy to the grid, which would otherwise not have occurred.

TechNet member companies want to expand in Oregon, creating jobs and tax base, and bringing more clean power to the state.

SB 979 simplifies direct access for nonresidential consumers who want to leave utility cost of service and procure 100% renewable energy. As a result, TechNet members can meet their corporate sustainability and carbon reduction goals and boost Oregon's economy in the process.

The need for innovation, efficiency and choice is clear. Competition is the proven best way to achieve both. TechNet strongly urges your support for SB 979 and request you vote it out so the bill can be considered by the full Senate.