



April 3, 2017

Senator Lee Beyer, Chair
Senate Business and Transportation Committee
Oregon State Capitol
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Senate Bills 656, 657, 659

Chair Beyer and Members of the Committee,

We write in opposition to Senate Bills 656, 657, and 659 as negatively impacting energy efficiency and renewable energy deployment in the state, as well as the Energy Trust of Oregon's ability to make a sizeable dent in our state's carbon footprint. Maintaining a strong Energy Trust of Oregon is a powerful tool to realize the clean energy future our Governor and Oregonians around the state want.

State-level action to reduce greenhouse gases is urgently needed to address the ongoing risks to public safety, our environment, our climate, and local economy posed by climate change. Oregon is transitioning from coal and other fossil fuels to clean, renewable energy. As part of that transition, Oregon should support its own home-grown, low-cost renewable energy and energy efficiency programs that save homeowners and business owners energy costs, help maintain our competitive edge, and create local jobs.

Investment in energy efficiency produces more than 3x as many jobs as the fossil fuel industry. Energy Trust of Oregon energy efficiency projects provided the following benefits for Oregon from 2002-2015:¹

- \$1.3 billion invested resulting in \$5.6 billion customer savings on utility bills over time;
- Added \$3.9 billion to the state's economy;
- Kept more than 14.6 million metric tons of CO₂ out of the air.

These bills propose to reduce and cap the public purchase charge for energy conservation in homes, businesses and schools, renewable energy projects and low income home weatherization and low income housing rehabilitation and construction. They also propose increasing scrutiny of the Energy Trust of Oregon in a way that could negatively impact its ability to help customers cut costs through affordable, clean energy solutions and power their

¹ Energy Trust of Oregon, "2015 Annual Report," http://assets.energytrust.org/api/assets/reports/PublicAnnualReport_2015_Final.pdf

homes and businesses through renewable energy. For these reasons, we urge you not to support these bills.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,



Meredith Connolly
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Climate Solutions

About Climate Solutions: Climate Solutions is a regional non-profit working to accelerate practical and profitable solutions to global warming.

ClimateSolutions.org

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