

March 24, 2017

Senator Lee Beyer
Chair, Business and Transportation Committee
Oregon State Legislature
Senate Committee on Business & Transportation
900 Court Street NE, S-411
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Local Business Support for Senate Bill 979

Dear Chair Beyer and members of Senate Committee on Business and Transportation:

I am writing on behalf of Coronal Energy™, a leading independent power producer, to express strong support for the “Renewable Direct Access” legislation proposed by the Northwest & Intermountain Power Producers Coalition (NIPPC). SB 979 permits nonresidential customers to leave their utility’s cost of service power and buy green energy directly from the market.

Good for Local Business. Allowing businesses to choose Renewable Direct Access will spur construction and new green jobs hires. Businesses will be able to buy new solar, wind, biomass, small hydro and geothermal power, all of which can be found here in Oregon.

Boost Economic Development. Rural Oregon needs a “shot in the arm.” New power projects will add to host counties tax base and make it easier for these communities to attract new businesses tapping into local renewable resources.

Good for the Environment. Enabling businesses to “go green” for their power will reduce CO₂ emissions and build new renewable power plants “above and beyond” that required by Oregon’s Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS).

Good for Ratepayers. SB 979 is written so that Renewable Direct Access will not affect ratepayers remaining on conventional utility service.

Coronal Energy is a proud first mover and heavy investor in the Oregon renewables market. Since our development in the state began in 2012, our portfolio of 10 solar PV projects has created jobs and continues to positively impact the local economy. Our projects will ultimately deliver 88MWac of clean energy—powering more than 8,100 homes per year—benefitting Oregonians for the next 20+ years.

In conclusion, allowing eligible customers to choose their power supply will permit competition to drive down prices and increase environmental benefits for everyone. For these reasons, I urge you to vote in support of SB 979.

Sincerely,



Ben Alingh
Coronal Energy
Director, Western Region Origination

