

March 17, 2017

The Honorable Lee Beyer  
Chairman, Senate Business & Transportation Committee  
State Capitol, 900 Court St. NE, S-411  
Salem, Oregon 97301

RE: SB 979 - Support

Dear Chairman Beyer:

Albertsons Companies, LLC (Albertsons Companies) supports SB 979, which is expected to be heard in your committee on April 3rd. The bill proposes to expand the Investor Owned Utilities' Direct Access program for the commercial and industrial customers that want to buy 100% renewable electricity directly delivered from an Electric Service Supplier.

Albertsons Companies is a strong supporter of competitive power markets. We currently participate in the competitive direct access market behind Portland General Electric (PGE).

Albertsons Companies is one of the largest food and drug retailers in the United States, with both a strong local presence and national scale. The company operates stores, manufacturing plants and distribution centers across 35 states and the District of Columbia under 19 well-known banners including Albertsons, Safeway, Vons, Jewel-Osco, Shaw's, Acme, Tom Thumb, Randalls, United Supermarkets, Pavilions, Star Market, Haggen and Carrs.

- In Oregon, we employ approximately 15,993 people, most represented by United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW), who support 144 stores, 129 pharmacies, 34 gasoline stations, and a 990,000 square-foot of distribution and manufacturing space. Our Portland Division headquarters is located in 16300 SE Evelyn Street, Clackamas, OR 97015.
- Last year we contributed over \$760,000 in charitable donations to Oregon non-profit organizations, and over 8.8 million pounds of food to the Oregon Food Bank.

Utility customers that do not participate in the 100% renewable electricity Direct Access Program remain unharmed by SB 979.

Working together to be the *favorite local supermarket™*

SB 979 leaves the Oregon Public Utility Commission with considerable authority. It grants the Commission greater flexibility to determine impacts on remaining utility ratepayers, and it simplifies how direct access customers returning to cost of service are treated. Additionally, SB 979 provides the Commission explicit authority to “encourage diverse ownership” of generation resources, and “promote development of renewable energy.”

Albertsons Companies hopes your Committee supports 100% renewable electricity Direct Access participation through SB 979 as it will give to Oregon’s many organizations such as universities, community colleges, K-12 schools, retail companies, government facilities, fast-food chains, supermarkets, technology companies, food processors, and countless other vital contributors to Oregon’s economy the ability to participate in the 100% renewable electricity Direct Access program.

For these reasons, Albertsons Companies urges your support of SB 979.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Scott Graham", with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Scott Graham  
Vice President - National Programs  
Albertsons Companies

cc: Senator Chuck Thomsen, Vice Chair, Business & Transportation Committee  
Senator Fred Girod, Member, Business & Transportation Committee  
Senator Rod Monroe, Member, Business & Transportation Committee  
Senator Chuck Riley, Member, Business & Transportation Committee