

ELECTRICAL CONTRACTING

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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 Winema Electric, Inc. 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 business to choose Renewable Direct Access will spur construction and new green job hires. Businesses will be able to buy new solar, wind, small hydro and geothermal power, all of which can be found here in Oregon.

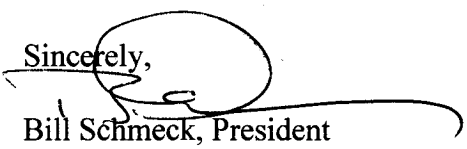
Boost Economic Development. Rural Oregon needs this shot in the arm. New power projects will add to host counties tax base and make it easier for these communities to attract new businesses tapping into the local renewable resources.

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 the Oregon's Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS).

Good for Ratepayers. SB979 is written so that Renewable Direct Access will not affect ratepayers remaining on conventional utility service.

In conclusion, allowing eligible customers to choose their power supply will permit competition to drive down prices and increase environmental benefits for everyone, as well as keep the positive solar job creation that has helped our company keep additional electricians working strong for the past six years. For these reasons, I urge you to vote in support of SB 979.

Sincerely,


Bill Schmeck, President
Winema Electric, Inc.

cc: Senators Thomsen, Girod, Monroe, Riley and Mr. Robert Kahn