

Advocates for the West
Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians
AirWorks, Inc.
Alaska Housing Finance Corporation
Alliance to Save Energy
Allumia
Alternative Energy Resources Organization
American Rivers
A World Institute for a Sustainable Humanity
Beneficial State Bank
BlueGreen Alliance
Bonneville Environmental Foundation
Centerstone
Citizens' Utility Board of Oregon
City of Ashland
City of Seattle Office of Sustainability & Environment
Climate Solutions
Community Action Center of Whitman County
Community Action Partnership Assoc. of Idaho
Community Action Partnership of Oregon
Drive Oregon
Earth and Spirit Council
Earth Ministry
Ecova
eFormative Options
Emerald People's Utility District
Energy Savvy
Energy Trust of Oregon
Environment Oregon
Environment Washington
HEAT Oregon
Home Performance Guild of Oregon
Home Performance Washington
Housing and Comm. Services Agency of Lane Co.
Human Resources Council, District XI
Idaho Clean Energy Association
Idaho Conservation League
Idaho Rivers United
Interfaith Network for Earth Concerns
League of Women Voters Idaho
League of Women Voters Oregon
League of Women Voters Washington
Montana Audubon
Montana Environmental Information Center
Montana Renewable Energy Association
Montana River Action
National Center for Appropriate Technology
Natural Resources Defense Council
New Buildings Institute
Northern Plains Resource Council
Northwest Energy Efficiency Council
NW Natural
NW SEED
OneEnergy Renewables
Opower
Opportunities Industrialization Center of WA
Opportunity Council
Oregon Energy Coordinators Association
Oregon Environmental Council
Oregonians for Renewable Energy Policy
OSEIA
Pacific Energy Innovation Association
Pacific NW Regional Council of Carpenters
Portland Energy Conservation Inc.
Portland General Electric
Puget Sound Advocates for Retired Action
Puget Sound Cooperative Credit Union
Puget Sound Energy
Renewable Northwest
Save Our wild Salmon
Sea Breeze Power Corp.
Seattle Audubon Society
Seattle City Light
Seinergy
Sierra Club
Sierra Club, Idaho Chapter
Sierra Club, Montana Chapter
Sierra Club, Washington Chapter
Small Business Utility Advocates
Smart Grid Northwest
Snake River Alliance
Solar Installers of Washington
Solar Oregon
Solar Washington
South Central Community Action Partnership
Southeast Idaho Community Action Partners
Spokane Neighborhood Action Partners
Sustainable Connections
The Climate Trust
The Energy Project
UCONS, LLC
Union Of Concerned Scientists
United Steelworkers of America, District 12
US Green Building Council, Idaho Chapter
Washington Environmental Council
Washington Local Energy Alliance
Washington State Department of Commerce
Washington State University Energy Program
YMCA Earth Service Corps



April 3, 2017

Chair Beyer and Members of the Senate Committee on Business and Transportation
Oregon State Capitol
Salem, OR 97301

Re: SB 656, 657, 659

Dear Chair Beyer and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the NW Energy Coalition, I am writing to oppose SB 656, 657 and 659. The NW Energy Coalition is an alliance of about 100 environmental, civic and human service organizations, progressive utilities and businesses in Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Montana and British Columbia. We promote development of renewable energy and energy conservation, consumer protection, low-income energy assistance, and fish and wildlife restoration on the Columbia and Snake rivers.

The NW Energy Coalition has participated in the operations and accountability of the Energy Trust of Oregon and their programs since its inception by serving on the Conservation Advisory Committee and participating in monitoring reports and relevant proceedings at the Oregon Public Utility Commission (OPUC). The bottom line is that the Energy Trust programs help utility customers in Oregon reduce energy costs, increase productivity, contribute health and safety benefits, and reduce environmental impacts including greenhouse gas reductions.

SB 656, 657 and 659 seek to solve problems that do not exist. The Energy Trust is model organization that produces significant results for Oregon households, businesses and industry. The OPUC oversight of the organization is effective and thorough – ensuring that utility customer resources are spent efficiently and effectively to reduce system costs and individual consumer bills. At the same time, the energy efficiency and small-scale renewable work that Energy Trust performs supports a large local workforce that provides jobs and economic benefits throughout the state.

These bills would cap valuable programs that produce multiple benefits to utility customers in Oregon including: 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 that is neither warranted nor necessary.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on SB 656, 657 and 659. We urge you to vote no on these bills.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W Gerlitz". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Wendy Gerlitz
Policy Director