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To: Members of the Senate Business and Transportation Committee

From: Rhett Lawrence, Oregon Chapter Sierra Club

Date: April 3, 2017

RE: Senate Bills 656, 657, and 659

Chair Beyer and Members of the Committee: On behalf of the more than 20,000 members and supporters of the Sierra Club in Oregon, I wish to provide this written testimony in opposition to Senate Bills 656, 657, and 659.

As an organization with a long history working to move beyond fossil fuels in Oregon, we oppose these bills because of their potential to undermine energy efficiency and renewable energy efforts in Oregon. We also believe these bills will negatively impact the Energy Trust of Oregon's ability to help reduce our state's carbon footprint. We strongly believe that the ETO must play a central role in getting our state to the clean energy future that Oregonians deserve and demand.

The Sierra Club believes that 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. As you know, Oregon is transitioning from coal and other fossil fuels to clean, renewable energy. As part of that transition, Oregon must support 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. These are the kinds of investments that must be protected in Oregon and which the ETO excels in providing.

These bills would reduce 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. And since they would also severely hamper the ETO's ability to help customers cut costs through affordable, clean energy solutions and power their homes and businesses through renewable energy, we must oppose them and we urge this committee to do the same.

Thank you very much for considering our comments and please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of further assistance to the Committee.