



April 3, 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:

I am writing on behalf of EDP Renewables North America (EDPR NA) to express strong support for the “Renewable Direct Access” legislation proposed by the Northwest & Intermountain Power Producers Coalition (NIPPC). EDPR NA is a leading developer and operator of renewable energy projects, including three wind farms in Oregon representing capital investments of more than \$600 million in the state. EDPR NA is pursuing wind and solar developments in Oregon that, given additional market, would represent over \$100 million in new investment in Oregon.

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. EDPR NA has created over 50 permanent jobs in Oregon, as well as more than 300 fulltime-equivalent jobs during the construction of our Oregon wind farms. Growth in the renewable energy sector is driven in large part by commercial power purchase agreements (PPAs), and with SB 979, businesses will be able to buy new solar, wind, biomass, small hydro, and geothermal power, all of which can be built here in Oregon.

Boost Economic Development. Rural Oregon needs a “shot in the arm.” EDPR NA’s three Oregon wind farms have already paid over \$39 million to local communities in the form of local taxes and landowner payments since 2007. 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 CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, protect water resources, and foster construction of 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.

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

Sincerely,

Scott Farris  
EDP Renewables North America  
Senior Regulatory and Government Affairs Manager