



April 10, 2017

*Submitted Via Email*

House Committee on Energy and Environment

**Re: Columbia Riverkeeper Support for HB 3343**

Dear Chair Helm and Members of the Committee,

Columbia Riverkeeper (Riverkeeper) supports House Bill 3343. Riverkeeper and its 12,000 members work to protect and restore the Columbia River. The impacts of climate change will impair the ability of the Columbia River to support clean water, healthy salmon runs, and livable communities. Additionally, several of the Northwest's largest proposed greenhouse gas polluters would use Columbia River rail corridors and ports to export massive quantities of fossil fuels. These proposals would harm water quality, air quality, and public safety while undercutting the state's climate goals. Oregon currently lacks a comprehensive approach for assessing the climate impacts of these proposals.

HB 3343 would help to bolster the state's ability to address the impacts of large proposals that would add to the state's greenhouse gas pollution. The Columbia River Estuary has seen multiple very large energy export proposals, including projects that would export coal, oil, and natural gas. For years, our members and the general public have wrestled with how state agencies can best work to evaluate the comprehensive impact of very large projects. HB 3343 establishes a "climate test" for facilities that would add 500,000 metric tons or more of carbon dioxide pollution each year. HB 3343 and its companion SB 1007 would provide new and important tools for Oregon to achieve its climate goals by addressing the impacts of very large proposed polluters. By requiring projects to disclose their climate-changing pollution impact, Oregonians will gain a clearer sense of whether new large fossil fuel projects are consistent with the state's goals for reducing greenhouse gas pollution.

Currently, Oregon lags far behind California and Washington in its ability to evaluate the environmental, public safety, and climate impacts of large projects. HB 3343 would help to close this gap by establishing a public review process that addresses the greenhouse gas pollution from very large proposals. California and Washington, through their State Environmental Policy Act reviews, already require an analysis of climate change impacts for large projects. We support the effort reflected in HB 3343 to bring Oregon more into line with our neighbors.

Sincerely,

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