



To: Members of the House Committee on Energy and Environment  
From: Amy Hojnowski, Sr. Campaign Representative, Sierra Club, Beyond Coal Campaign  
Date: 3-9-17  
RE: House Bill 2471

Chair Helm and members of the Committee:

Our society now faces a fundamental challenge greater than any in history. Dependence on fossil fuels is causing global warming, the depletion of energy resources, and severe damage to human health and the environment. The impacts of burning fossil fuels threaten the security of our nation, the survival of species, and impairs the Earth's capacity to sustain life.

Converging events, including rising energy prices, increasingly powerful hurricanes and melting glaciers have raised growing concerns, and our national fossil fuel addiction leaves us dependent on imports from unstable regions of the world.

Oregon has remained a pioneer by responding to these changes before they overwhelm us by showing our determination, our entrepreneurship, and our willingness to take forward thinking policy approaches to do our part to achieve a stable global climate and a sustainable energy system. The Clean Electricity and Coal Transition Act passed last year is an excellent example of Oregon leading the way by not only creating a sunset of our electricity use from coal resources by a date certain, but also doubling down on our commitments to clean energy by increasing our RPS to 50% by 2040.

Sierra Club Beyond Coal Campaign believes strongly in the high value of state based policies like a Renewable Portfolio Standard that increases clean energy outcomes. Not only do these policies set the standard for how we support a transition to a clean energy economy, increasing long term jobs in the region, increasing health and environment outcomes while also displacing the perceived need for continued reliance on fossil fuels to meet our energy needs.

Therefore we are here today to oppose HB 2471 as a significant step backward that would undermine the value of Oregon's commitment to our climate and to our economy that we made together last session.

Amy Hojnowski  
Sr. Campaign Representative, Sierra Club