

House Committee On Energy and Environment

Chair Helm and Members of the Committee

I STRONGLY OPPOSE SB 339A, which caps electricity generated by any single biomass facility that may be used to meet renewable standards in order to promote diversity of resource types that can be used to comply with Oregon's small-scale renewable energy requirement.

This amendment to the law will put a restraint on rural communities that can't support the high cost of diversifying the sources of renewable energy. It limits the sources that may be most efficient and productive for the area driving up prices. When we have so many counties that are in a financial crisis, this bill makes it harder for their recovery, if not impossible.

The 2016 Senate Bill 1547 passed with a mandated of 8% of the aggregate electrical capacity of all electric companies that sell to 25,000 or more customers that must come from small-scale renewable energy projects that generate electricity using biomass that also generate thermal energy for a secondary purpose. The legislation was passed with no cap on the contribution from biomass cogeneration facilities for good reason, not as an oversight.

This bill limits a rural area from developing a successful cost effective biomass energy that would benefit the community. Forcing diversity will force support of small projects that are more costly and sometimes cost prohibiting.

Help our struggling counties and vote NO on SB 339A.

Donna Bleiler