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To: Members of the House Energy and Environment Committee

From: Rhett Lawrence, Oregon Chapter Sierra Club

Date: February 6, 2017

RE: House Bill 2133

Chair Helm and Members of the Committee: On behalf of the more than 30,000 members and supporters of the Sierra Club in Oregon, I am pleased to provide this written testimony on House Bill 2133. As an organization with a long history working on energy issues in Oregon, we support this bill and its efforts to bring clarity to the directives of SB 1547, the historic Clean Energy and Coal Transition bill from 2016.

We believe that the amendments being drafted to implement a 20 megawatt capacity cap for biomass cogeneration facilities will capture the essence of what was intended by the “biomass fix” that was discussed on the record in the 2016 session. And while the Sierra Club does have concerns about certain biomass issues, we believe this bill as amended is simply a technical fix for a policy that is already on the books, so we support this proposal. Indeed, the bill language as amended is a way to make sure that any future biomass facilities do not eat up all of the capacity of the 8% small-scale renewable requirement. In other words, it’s a way to be sure that the 8% consists of a diverse portfolio, ideally of wind and solar energy. Without the 20 megawatt capacity cap addressed by this bill, we fear that biomass could edge out all other renewables with a single massive facility.

For these reasons, the Sierra Club supports House Bill 2133 and we urge this Committee to do the same. This is a simple fix to a good policy and we need the clarity that it will provide. 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.