



February 20, 2017

Senator Lee Beyer, Chair
Senate Committee on Business and Transportation
Oregon State Capitol
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Senate Bill 339

Chair Beyer and Members of the Committee,

We write to express our support for SB 339. Climate Solutions is a regional non-profit working to accelerate practical and profitable solutions to global warming. Climate Solutions is a founding member of Renew Oregon, a large and diverse coalition of more than 160 businesses, non-profits, faith, and community organizations that strongly supported SB 1547, the historic Clean Electricity and Coal Transition bill from 2016.

Senate Bill 1547 positioned Oregon at the forefront of the clean energy transition nationwide. The transition from coal to clean energy is critical step toward achieving Oregon's legislated greenhouse gas reduction goals and safeguarding the health and well-being of all Oregonians. The coalition that supported SB 1547 in 2016 agreed to cap biomass in this way last session, but the fix did not make it into the legislation in time. Thus SB 339 is a fix to bring clarity to what was intended in the 8% small-scale renewable requirement in SB 1547.

Part of the climate-smart energy transition encourages diverse small-scale renewable projects. By ensuring no single facility exceeds 20 megawatts in capacity, this "biomass fix" bill ensures no one or two mega-biomass projects consume most, or all of, the 8% small-scale renewable requirement. This will leave more room to support small projects, especially solar and wind energy projects.

Climate Solutions supports SB 339 and encourages the Committee to support this bill as a technical fix to a historic existing policy. Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

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