

SB 634 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Sen. Knopp

Senate Committee On Environment and Natural Resources

Action Date: 04/10/17

Action: Do pass.

Vote: 5-0-0-0

Yeas: 5 - Baertschiger Jr, Dembrow, Olsen, Prozanski, Roblan

Fiscal: Has minimal fiscal impact

Revenue: Has minimal revenue impact

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WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Adds woody biomass used for specified purposes to list of qualifying green energy technologies that may be used to satisfy requirement that 1.5 percent of total contract price for construction, reconstruction or major renovation of a public building be spent to include green energy technology. Establishes that if woody biomass is employed at a site located away from site of public building to meet 1.5 percent requirement, it is not required to replace or constitute a purchase of green energy technology that employs woody biomass that existed on date on which the original building permit for the public building was issued. Establishes that in evaluating whether off-site location meets requirement, contracting agency is required to compare costs of on-site and off-site locations. Applies to public contracts entered into after effective date of Act. Takes effect on 91st day after adjournment of 2017 legislative session.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Past legislative attempts to add woody biomass as a qualifying green energy technology
- Types of buildings where woody biomass use for heating is appropriate

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Oregon law requires public entities to spend 1.5 percent of the total price of a public improvement contract for new construction or the major renovation of a public building on green energy technology. Public entities include, but are not limited to, state agencies, community colleges, school districts and education services districts and local government. In 2012, Senate Bill 1533 allowed the use of geothermal energy to satisfy the 1.5 percent requirement if the water used as a heat source is at temperatures of more than 140 degrees Fahrenheit. In 2015, House Bill 3329 modified the standard for geothermal energy resources to qualify as a green energy technology if the water used as a heat source is more than 128 degrees Fahrenheit and the system is used for a public school building.

Senate Bill 634 would add woody biomass used as a fuel for space heating or water heating, or as a fuel for a combined heat and power system, to the list of qualifying green energy technology.