



February 5, 2018

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

RE: SB 1519 and SB 1537

Dear Chair Beyer and Members of the Committee,

Climate Solutions and many others look to the Oregon Department of Energy (ODOE) to provide technical expertise, data, and thought leadership on energy policy. The passage of Senate Bill 1547 in 2016 and other recent legislation has chartered a new course for Oregon's energy future and ODOE has an important role to play in its successful implementation. Looking forward, Oregon will need to take additional steps to achieve its legislated greenhouse gas reduction goals and changing energy environment, and it should be able to rely on its state energy department to inform those efforts. In addition, ODOE plays an important role in ensuring energy safety, including oversight of legacy nuclear energy issues, and in the siting of new energy facilities.

Climate Solutions believes that Oregon is stronger and better positioned to lead on climate and the transition to a clean energy economy if our state energy department is well-functioning and resourced. We applaud the efforts of the Legislature and the Governor to develop more transparency, oversight and accountability within ODOE and real progress is being made.

With respect to SB 1519, SB 1537 and HB 4148, legislation currently before the Legislature, Climate Solutions supports creation of an advisory group with some oversight functions, but not a wholesale shifting of ODOE's rulemaking and policy making authority to a new commission. With the successful changes in staffing and roles at ODOE (including elimination of legacy tax credit programs within the agency), ODOE already has moved a long way in a short time. An advisory group could further this transition and provide added transparency and oversight functions while not completely altering how the agency efficiently conducts business.

In addition, Climate Solutions supports making sure that any appointments, whether to an advisory group or commission, represent a diverse range of energy backgrounds with a

commitment to equity and inclusion. Appointees should not be employed by, or contracted to, regulate utilities.

The staff at ODOE is talented and committed. With the right leadership, resources, and clarity of scope and purpose, ODOE can continue to be an important asset for both legislators and the residents of Oregon and the nation. Thank you for consideration of our comments on this important agency for Oregon's future.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Meredith Connolly'.

Meredith Connolly  
Oregon State Director  
Climate Solutions

**About Climate Solutions:** Climate Solutions is a regional non-profit working to accelerate clean energy solutions to the climate crisis. For 20 years, Climate Solutions has been working to implement energy efficiency, renewable energy, and carbon reduction policies that demonstrate that clean energy and broadly shared economic prosperity go hand-in-hand.