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February 7, 2018

TO: Senator Michael Dembrow, Chair, Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources
Representative Helm, Chair, House Committee on Energy and Environment
Members, Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources
Members, House Committee on Energy and Environment

FR: Rikki Seguin, Policy Director, Renewable Northwest

RE: SB 1507 and HB 4001 Testimony

Dear Chairs Dembrow and Helm:

Renewable Northwest is a regional, non-profit renewable energy advocacy organization based in Oregon, dedicated to the responsible development of renewable energy resources throughout the Pacific Northwest. Our members are a combination of renewable energy businesses and environmental and consumer groups. Renewable Northwest was pleased to participate in the Clean Energy Jobs Workgroup process in the fall of 2017 and appreciates the work of the workgroup chairs and members in crafting legislation responsive to stakeholder comments.

Renewable Northwest supports the framework used in SB 1507 and HB 4001 and is optimistic about its potential: the bills outline carbon reduction strategies that could reduce greenhouse gas emissions and provide long-term market signals that could drive demand away from fossil fuels and toward renewable energy resources. We are also optimistic about how a cap and trade framework like the one in SB 1507 and HB 4001 could intersect with investor owned utilities' integrated resource plans, encouraging utilities to potentially stay ahead of a declining emissions curve. SB 1507 and HB 4001 could also provide additional impetus to early action on renewables procurement by utilities in order to meet the least cost, least risk resource planning framework.

Renewable Northwest is committed to ensuring that any carbon reduction framework does not undermine existing programs and policies that are working in Oregon, just as we communicated throughout the Clean Energy Jobs workgroup process.

Specifically regarding the voluntary renewable energy market, we highlighted the need for an allowance set-aside mechanism to preserve the integrity of voluntary renewable energy programs, as described in the DEQ Study of a Market Approach to Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions.

Renewable Northwest remains optimistic about the potential of both bills and is eager to continue discussions regarding this critical protection and other intersectional issues, such as Renewable Portfolio Standard compliance and the Clean Electricity and Coal Transition Plan implementation.

Sincerely,

Rikki Seguin
Policy Director
Renewable Northwest