

Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians
AirWorks, Inc.
Alaska Housing Finance Corporation
Alliance to Save Energy
Allumia
Alternative Energy Resources Organization
Ameresco
American Rivers
Backbone Campaign
Beneficial State Bank
BlueGreen Alliance
Bonneville Environmental Foundation
Byrd Barr Place
City of Ashland
City of Seattle Office of Sustainability & Environment
CleanTech Alliance
Climate Smart Missoula
Climate Solutions
Community Action Center of Whitman County
Community Action Partnership Assoc. of Idaho
Community Action Partnership of Oregon
Earth and Spirit Council
Earth Ministry
Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon
eFormative Options
Energy350
EnergySavvy
Energy Trust of Oregon
ENGIE Services U.S.
Enhabit
Environment Oregon
Environment Washington
EQL Energy
Forth
Global Ocean Health
Green Energy Institute at Lewis & Clark Law School
Homes for Good
Home Performance Guild of Oregon
Human Resources Council, District XI
Idaho Clean Energy Association
Idaho Conservation League
Idaho Rivers United
League of Women Voters Idaho
League of Women Voters Oregon
League of Women Voters Washington
Montana Audubon
Montana Environmental Information Center
Montana Renewable Energy Association
Montana River Action
Multnomah County Office of Sustainability
National Center for Appropriate Technology
National Grid
Natural Resources Defense Council
New Buildings Institute
Northern Plains Resource Council
Northwest EcoBuilding Guild
Northwest Energy Efficiency Council
NW Natural
OneEnergy Renewables
Opportunities Industrialization Center of WA
Opportunity Council
Oracle
Oregon Citizens' Utility Board
Oregon Energy Fund
Oregon Environmental Council
Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility
Oregon Solar Energy Industries Association
Pacific Energy Innovation Association
Pacific NW Regional Council of Carpenters
Portland General Electric
Puget Sound Advocates for Retired Action
Puget Sound Cooperative Credit Union
Renewable Northwest
Save Our *wild* Salmon
Seattle City Light
Seinergy
Sierra Club
Sierra Club, Idaho Chapter
Sierra Club, Montana Chapter
Sierra Club, Washington Chapter
Small Business Utility Advocates
Smart Grid Northwest
Snake River Alliance
Snohomish County PUD
Solar Installers of Washington
Solar Oregon
Solar Washington
South Central Community Action Partnership
Southeastern Idaho Community Action Agency
Spark Northwest
Spokane Neighborhood Action Partners
Sustainable Connections
The Climate Trust
The Energy Project
Transition Missoula
UCONS, LLC
Union Of Concerned Scientists
United Steelworkers of America, District 12
Washington Environmental Council
Washington Local Energy Alliance
Washington Physicians for Social Responsibility
Washington State Community Action Partnership
Washington State Department of Commerce
Washington State University Energy Program
YMCA Earth Service Corps
Zero Waste Vashon



NW Energy Coalition
for a clean and affordable energy future

February 18, 2019
House Economic Development Committee
Oregon State Capitol Salem, OR 97301

Re: HB 2173 and HB 2184

Dear Chair Lively, Vice-Chair Bonham, Vice-Chair Fahey and members of the committee,

On behalf of the NW Energy Coalition, I am writing provide support for HB 2173, which creates the Oregon Broadband Office within Oregon Business Development Department and HB 2184, which expands the Universal Service Fund to include necessary funding to bring broadband to underserved areas of Oregon.

The NW Energy Coalition is an alliance of about 100 environmental, civic and human service organizations, progressive utilities and businesses in Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Montana and British Columbia. We promote development of renewable energy and energy conservation, consumer protection, low-income energy assistance, and fish and wildlife restoration on the Columbia and Snake rivers.

The link between broadband access and utility service is becoming increasingly important. New technologies allow customers to save money on their utility bills by reducing or shifting times of use – and these actions not only save the customer money, but all customers benefit when system costs are reduced through these actions. These new technologies rely on access to broadband services. As we seek to ensure that all utility customers receive safe, reliable and affordable service, access to broadband will be one important piece of the puzzle.

HB 2173 and HB 2184 work to ensure underserved areas of our state, primarily in rural areas, will be a focus for broadband services. We urge you to support these two bills.

Sincerely,

Wendy Gerlitz
Policy Director