



February 28, 2019

Committee Chair	Representative Ken Helm
Vice-Chair	Representative E. Werner Reschke
Vice-Chair	Representative Sheri Schouten
Member	Representative Lynn Findley
Member	Representative Andrea Salinas
Member	Representative Janeen Sollman
Member	Representative Marty Wilde
Member	Representative Anna Williams
Member	Representative Jack Zika

House Committee on Energy and Environment

RE: HB 2329

Dear Chair Helm and Members of the Committee:

My name is Hannah Stuckart and I am a developer with Invenergy, North America's largest independent renewable power generation company. Invenergy develops, owns and operates large-scale renewable and other clean energy generation and storage facilities in the Americas and Europe and is headquartered in Chicago. In Oregon, Invenergy owns the Willow Creek wind project in Gilliam and Morrow Counties and will start construction on the Prineville and Millican solar projects in Crook County later this year, all three of which are county permitted.

I am here today to support House Bill 2329 because it will allow counties to permit renewable projects regardless of size which will encourage us to develop projects in Oregon. We permitted the first large solar project in Oregon, the 75MW Boardman solar project, through ODOE and it took us 6 times the time and money than our similar 55MW Prineville solar project which we permitted through Crook County which gives us considerable pause about permitting any additional projects through ODOE. This contrast, we believe, is not due to a difference in review standards, but primarily due to the amount of paperwork that ODOE requires of applicants and produces themselves. For example, ODOE required a preliminary application for the Boardman solar project that was 850 pages, then made 110 requests for additional information, and required a final application that was 975 pages long. The final permit, including the Site Certificate and the Final Order was 315 pages long with 88 conditions. It is easy for substantive issues to get lost in so much paperwork, and we think counties do a better job at keeping focused on substance over process. Counties issue permits for most other development in Oregon, such as data centers and housing developments, and we fail to see how it should not be the same for renewable

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energy facilities. As developers of large renewable energy projects, which require significant capital investment, we are always committed to ensuring that our projects avoid, minimize or mitigate impacts and meet all applicable local, state and federal requirements, so we are not asking for relief on substance, only on process.

In conclusion, I personally started with Invenergy just one month ago at the small but growing Portland office to support renewable energy project development in Oregon, Washington and Nevada. Invenergy is investing these resources because of Oregon state policies driving renewable energy development, but other states in this region are passing similar policies *and* have more workable permitting processes. So, for Invenergy and others to develop additional large-scale renewable energy facilities in Oregon, we encourage you to consider passing House Bill 2329 to allow us and others to bring forward more projects in a range of sizes for counties and electricity users to choose from.

Sincerely,

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Hannah Stuckart