



Climate Solutions.

PRACTICAL SOLUTIONS TO GLOBAL WARMING

March 7, 2019

Senator Michael Dembrow, Chair
Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee
Oregon State Capitol
Salem, OR 97301

Re: SB 508 - Oppose

Chair Dembrow and Members of the Committee,

We write in opposition to **SB 508**. We oppose watering down Oregon's strong renewable portfolio standard (RPS) created in 2007 with a 25 percent requirement by 2025 and increased in 2016 to 50 percent by 2040. Oregon's current policy is on track to achieve roughly an 80 percent clean electricity grid by 2035, one that includes fossil free existing hydro-electric facilities. But adding existing hydro resources to the 50 percent RPS would reduce the need to replace dirty fossil fuel generating facilities with clean new forms of renewable energy and it would slow down Oregon's trajectory toward meeting its long term greenhouse gas reduction goals.

Climate Solutions is a regional non-profit working to accelerate practical and profitable solutions to global warming. For more than 15 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.

SB 508 would add the Bonneville hydro-electric dams and other pre-1995 hydro facilities as qualifying resources for Oregon's RPS. As of 2016, the most recent data available from the Oregon Department of Energy, Oregon's electricity mix was roughly 40 percent hydro, 32 percent coal and 17 percent natural gas generated. The remaining 11 percent was a mix of wind, other renewables, biomass and nuclear. With the existing 50 percent RPS, the amount of coal and natural gas will decline precipitously as renewable resources ramp up over time. But to include hydro as a qualifying resource in the 50 percent RPS would slow down, if not eliminate, the need for utilities to increase their use of renewable energy. **Including hydro could be good policy IF Oregon were to create a 100 percent clean energy standard along the lines passed in California and likely to pass this session in Washington state.** However, it would be a significant step backwards for Oregon to add those legacy facilities to the existing 50 percent RPS.

We urge you to oppose **SB 508**. Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Van't Hof', with a stylized, wavy line for the last name.

David Van't Hof Policy Consultant, Climate Solutions