



March 19, 2019

The Honorable Representative Ken Helm  
Chair - House Committee On Energy and Environment  
Oregon House of Representatives  
Salem, OR 97301

RE: HB 2857 Support Oregon Small-Scale Renewable Facilities

Dear Chairman Helm,

I am seeking your continuing support on HB 2857. In 2009 with abundant renewable energy resources and a positive small-scale renewable energy investment climate due to favorable implementation of PURPA by the Oregon Public Utility Commission, I committed my family's capital to develop a small renewable energy project in rural Sherman County.

In December 2010, PáTu Wind, a 9 MW (6 wind turbines) wind project, began commercial operations with a 20-year Power Purchase Agreement from PGE that was required under OPUC rules that were in effect. PáTu Wind delivers sustainable energy to the Portland metro area, the project also pays property taxes to Sherman County along with local salaries and services in excess of \$500,000 annually. This was a win for Portland, Sherman County, and Oregon.

However, the renewable energy business environment for small renewable energy facilities has suffered severe setbacks since 2010 - under a barrage of legal assaults launched by PGE, PacifiCorp, and Idaho Power. The OPUC has acquiesced to these IOU attacks and has allowed the IOUs to undermine Oregon's implementation of PURPA. The IOU attacks on PURPA at the OPUC also have diminished the innovative work by the Oregon legislature in SB 838, passed in 2007, and they have limited my future sale of renewable energy from PáTu Wind. This has been so significant that I am concerned with my ability to secure a power purchase agreement to sell my power once my current PPA expires.

HB 2857 goes along ways to leveling the playing field with the monopsony IOUs by re-defining the original requirement that 8% of Oregon's energy load be supplied by small scale renewable energy facilities. This requirement was purposefully diluted by the IOU's in SB 1547 and now we have the opportunity to set straight this requirement.

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The IOUs have a role in Oregon's energy future – an important role. But we need to ensure that Oregon's energy future is met with diverse, sustainable, and independent energy sources. And finally, I want to personally thank you for past support of renewable energy in Oregon and HB 2857. As always, I am available if you want to discuss.

Respectfully,



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