



March 20, 2019

AltaRock Energy
4010 Stone Way N, Suite 400
Seattle, WA 98103

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

House Committee on Energy and Environment
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: SUPPORT HB 2857 AND SMALL-SCALE RENEWABLE ENERGY FACILITIES IN OREGON

Dear Chair Helm and Members of the Committee:

I write to urge you to support of HB 2857. It is important legislation, which will enable significant private investment in Oregon and advance the State's goals at reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Over the last decade, Alta Rock has researched the geothermal resource potential throughout much of Oregon. We are confident of the great opportunities to tap into naturally occurring thermal energy the state holds.

Generating electricity from geothermal energy makes for an especially attractive renewable resource. Running 24/7 as "baseload," geothermal does not require other generation – typically natural gas – to back fill for intermittency. Its environmental impacts are minimal and when sited, fully mitigated.

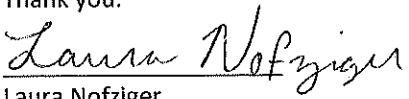
As with other renewables, building and operating a geothermal power plant are job and tax base windfalls for their host communities.

Enactment of HB 2857 will advance the prospects for cost-competitive geothermal development in Oregon. The state has only one operating facility at 26 megawatts. This is a vast underachievement, which warrants swift reversal.

The policies outlined in HB 2857 will instill much needed dynamism behind development. To highlight several of the bill's elements, HB 2857 creates much needed certainty in the OPUC's implementation of its PURPA policy both in setting thresholds for standard contracts and resolving insurmountable transmission obstacles. The 8% set aside will tangibly offset the utilities' preference for larger scale renewable projects and in PacifiCorp's case projects outside Oregon. HB 2857 truly reflects rural Oregonians' preference to see energy development occur locally.

Alta Rock appreciates the press of legislation you are considering. We ask that you recognize and support HB 2857 for what it is: a shot in the arm for rural Oregon and significant step in decarbonizing our energy economy.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Laura Nofziger". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Laura Nofziger
Manager