



MOUNTAIN STATES HYDRO, LLC

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House Energy and Environment Committee
900 Court St. NE, H-490
Salem, Oregon 97301
Email: hee.exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov
rep.kenhelm@oregonlegislature.gov

Re: Mountain States Hydro Supports Community Renewable Energy HB 2857

Chair Helm and Committee Members,

Mountain States Hydro urges the House Energy and Environment Committee to pass House Bill 2857, which will protect existing small-scale renewable energy projects and spur development of new community-based renewable projects. HB 2857 will ensure that the Public Utility Regulatory Practices Act (“PURPA”) supports clean power and local economic development.

Mountain States Hydro is a subsidiary of Mountain States Construction, which focuses on the development and construction of small to mid-sized hydroelectric power facilities on existing water infrastructure. Mountain States Hydro is located in Washington State, but has built facilities throughout the Intermountain and Pacific Northwest, including the Tieton Hydroelectric Facility in Tieton, Washington, the Arrowrock Dam Hydroelectric Facility in Boise, Idaho, and many others. All of the projects Mountain States Hydro has done are on existing non-powered dams or irrigation canals. Mountain States is familiar with several projects in Oregon that would likely be constructed if HB 2857 were to pass. More information about our projects can be found at: <https://www.mtstates.com/projects/hydroelectric.html>

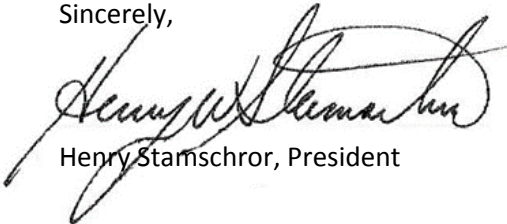
HB 2857 could reinvigorate Oregon’s small-scale community renewable projects, including low-impact hydroelectric facilities, and could serve as a model to other states looking to be renewable energy leaders. Among other great things, this bill supports community renewable by:

- Ensuring that the prices we are paid include the cost the utility avoids by avoiding transmission costs and benefiting from local sources of generation. Currently, renewable facilities like ours are not compensated for the value we provide as a local source of power over PacifiCorp’s power that must be shipped over transmission lines from Wyoming.
- Paying existing projects like ours for the capacity we provide to a utility when we renew our contracts. Currently, if we enter into a new power purchase agreement, we will be treated as a “new facility”, and not paid for our full capacity value.

- Changes the current community renewable standard from 8% of *electrical capacity* standard to an 8% of *electricity sold* standard to be consistent with the Renewable Portfolio Standard.
- Increases the amount of non-utility owned low impact hydro resources that can qualify for the renewable portfolio standard from 40 average MW to 100 average MW.
- Strengthen the Oregon Public Utility Commission's current goals of promoting small scale renewable development and setting just and reasonable prices to a mandate.
- Give greater notice and hearing rights to customers and qualifying facilities when a utility proposes to change its price schedule paid to qualifying facilities, and gives certainty regarding when the new prices will take effect.
- Clarifies that renewable facilities are eligible for standard prices and contracts if they are 10 MW in size or smaller.
- Provide access to the Oregon courts to decide contract disputes between qualifying facilities and utilities.

We appreciate your service and support of local renewable energy. We look forward to Oregon's leadership in ensuring that PURPA remains a key component of addressing both rural economic development and achieving the state's important climate goals.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Henry Stamschror". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Henry Stamschror, President