

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB's 3274 and 2857
Tuesday March 26, 2019
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

I am Doris Penwell, policy manager at Association of Oregon Counties, specializing in renewable energy issues, and here today in support of a blended bill for HB's 3274 and 2857.

For several legislative sessions AOC and I have advocated on behalf of Community Renewable Energy Association (CREA) to support the importance of small-scale renewable energy development in Oregon, subject to provisions of the Renewable Energy Portfolio standards for Oregon. The reasons are simple: this is good for the environment, good for the citizens of Oregon, and good for building more thriving communities, particularly in rural parts of Oregon.

Several attempts have been made by AOC and CREA since 2007 to clarify in statute a simple provision that provides that 8% of the electricity sold to Oregon customers within the RPS percentage be made up of small projects, less than 20 megawatts. In 2016, when the state moved the RPS requirements to 50% by 2040, the 8% requirement was changed, with little to no discussion, to a "capacity standard", or peak load. Judging from the difficulties in developing rules at the PUC around this difficult-to-define provision, we believe it is important to now seek a simpler and more accurate 8% of electricity-sold standard. This is especially important since all other requirements of the Oregon RPS regarding renewable energy being sold to Oregon customers is based on "electricity sold", not "electrical capacity."

The above-described proposal is in both HB 3274 and HB 2857, and it is the most important of all other provisions. We are hoping that the sponsors of the two bills can blend the provisions into one bill, supported by both sponsors. And we seek your support in moving this legislation forward.