

Testimony in Support of HB 2857 and HB 3274

Community Renewable Energy

Tuesday, March 26, 1 PM HR D

**Suzanne Wallace, Elementary Teacher in Lebanon for the Falls Creek
Hydroelectric Plant**

Chair Helm and members of the committee. Thank you for allowing me to testify in favor of HB 2857 and HB 3274.

My name is Suzanne Wallace and I have been an elementary teacher in the Lebanon Area for over 30 years. For 25 of those years, I have participated on annual tours given by the Falls Creek Hydroelectric Project for our 3rd and 4th graders. Well over 1,500 students have attended these tours. (You may have before you're a packet of some of the thank you notes and photographs from those trips.)

Our students not only learn about clean energy, how energy is made, and how to conserve it, but they learn about the Kalapuya and Santiam Native Americans and the pioneers that settled the area. The students play games that teach them about the food chain and wildlife.

They also learn about the elk reserve near the power plant and the historic Old Santiam Wagon Road. At the end of the tour they hike, and some of them run, down a 7,000 year-old Native American trail which has become the modern Gordon Lakes Trail.

Since the loss of funding for field trips, Falls Creek has graciously paid for the bus transportation. One year, when there was not a bus available, they found and paid for a bus so the children would not miss this annual trip.

The beauty of Falls Creek is that it is already here, already built and working to produce clean energy. It could continue for another 100 years. Think about how many more generations of students would experience the ingenuity of Falls Creek.

(Optional power point of a few selected thank you notes and pictures)

Thank you for allowing me to testify today. I'd be happy to answer any questions you may have.