



March 25, 2019

To: Chair Helm and Members of the House Energy and Environment Committee

From: Santiam Water Control District, Stayton, OR

Re: Letter of Support for HB 3274 and HB 2857

- **The Santiam Water Control District (SWCD) supports both HB 3274 and HB 2857. It is important to our community and our state to support renewable energy projects. HB 3274 reiterates what it means to “keep Oregon green”. Going forward, we Oregonians need to advocate for more renewable energy sources, not imported from other states. Support SWCD’s Oregon derived hydropower- consistently and responsibly delivered for 35 years.**

SWCD or its predecessors have been using water for power and industrial manufacturing beginning in 1866. The District upgraded and installed the current 189 kw hydroelectric facility we now have in operation in the 1980’s, in addition 2 private patrons of the district installed 75kw plants themselves. The income earned from generating hydropower has enabled us to invest in the community and environment in ways we otherwise would not be able. Things like gate automation, that allow us to better control and conserve our water, compliant fish screens, and many other improvement projects (exhibit attached). Without the added income from our hydroelectricity generation, we would not have the ability to support our local farmers by continuing to upgrade to become more efficient and allowing them the financial ability to invest in water-conscious irrigation systems. Our Power Purchase Agreement is ending in 2019. With current contracted pricing, and expected interconnection and study costs we may not be able to maintain the cost of operating a hydropower facility. We have been producing Oregon renewable energy, funding Oregon irrigation improvements, providing Oregon instream benefits improvements and investing in our Oregon local economy with agricultural jobs for 35

years. Without these bills we will continue to eliminate small Oregon generators, putting little to no value on local benefits we all know exist.

This bill is about Oregon, for Oregon. We can work towards keeping our electricity clean and green, while keeping the economic benefits local as well. By allowing power companies to bring in wind power from outside sources, we are losing a part of Oregon that helps keep it self-sustainable without leaving a carbon footprint. In 2018 we provided 1,372,761 energy/ kwh to PacifiCorp. An average of 1,498,514 kwh yearly since 1993. (35 years) Hydropower is a flexible, stable, low impact way to produce electricity. Oregon's renewable assets should be promoted! The utilities are using a broken PURPA to quietly drive small producers offline. You must ask yourselves what is the price we will pay as a society when Cascadia hits and all our local, rich, abundant, Oregon hydropower has been artificially priced out and outsourced?

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Brent Stevenson", with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Brent Stevenson
District Manager
Santiam Water Control District