



Finley BioEnergy LLC

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March 28, 2019

Rep. Helm's and Members of the Committee

Thank-you for this opportunity to express my support for House Bill 2857 and House Bill 3274.

My name is Gerry Friesen, I've grown up here in Oregon. Went to Beaverton High School. Went to Oregon State and have now been practicing Civil and Environmental Engineering here in Oregon since the 1980's.

My specialty is in municipal solid waste landfill design and I have been involved in the design of almost all of the large regional municipal solid waste landfills in the state. At each of these landfill's we collect the landfill gas that is being generated by the decomposition of the organics within the garbage. The landfill gas is combustible and has a methane content of about 50 percent. Prior to 2007 our primary form of treatment was to flare it. After the RPS was instituted, it became economical to inject the landfill gas into a specially designed internal combustion engine and generate electricity.

Power generating plants were able to be developed at many of the major landfills in the state. Since 2015, no new landfill gas projects have been able to be developed because of the unfavorable rates offered by PacifiCorp or PGE to QF facilities under PURPA. When our power purchase agreements with PacifiCorp and PGE expire in the next few years, we will have no one to purchase the electricity and we will have to return to flaring which is a huge waste of a tremendous resource.

Passage of House Bill 2857 will enable our industry to continue to produce small-scale community-based renewable electricity from biogas generated at landfills here in Oregon and will also cause the development of additional projects.

I am not just an Engineer but also an entrepreneur that has started several companies that utilize biogas to generate electricity. In the meeting handouts, you will see a letter that describes some of the benefits to PacifiCorp and PGE customers from 1 of our companies that is generating electricity from biogas.

Our Finley Buttes Landfill Gas Power Plant, located in Boardman, generates 4.8 MW of renewable electricity from municipal solid waste that is generated by the citizens of Oregon/Washington and currently provides renewable electricity to more than 3500 PacifiCorp customers in Oregon.

It was only because of Oregon's first renewable portfolio standard which was passed in 2007 that we were able to develop this project. Some of the benefits of this project includes:

- Turning municipal solid waste (MSW) generated by Oregonians into electricity.
- Capture of more than 1 million tons of Carbon Dioxide (CO₂) Emissions.
- Provision of 4 full-time jobs that are located in Oregon and are each capable of supporting a family.
- Payment of more than \$1.5 million dollars in state of Oregon, Morrow County and Morrow school property taxes.

This is from a single small-scale community-based renewable electricity project and there is now more than 5 of them operating in the state. We as an industry could develop additional projects in Bend at Deschutes County's landfill and The Dalles at the Wasco County Landfill if HB 2857 was able to be passed.

HB 2857 will enable us to continue to operate and develop additional small-scale community-based renewable electricity projects in Oregon which will be of great benefit to the PGE and PacifiCorp customers living here in Oregon. Because of all of this I urge you to pass House Bill 2857.

Thank-you.