



April 2, 2019

TO: Representative Ken Helm, Chair, House Committee on Energy and Environment
Members, House Committee on Energy and Environment

FR: Rikki Seguin, Policy Director, Renewable Northwest

RE: Support for HB 2494

Dear Chair Helm:

Renewable Northwest is a regional, non-profit renewable energy advocacy organization based in Oregon, dedicated to the responsible development of renewable energy resources throughout the Pacific Northwest. Our members are a combination of renewable energy businesses and environmental and consumer groups. **Renewable Northwest supports HB 2494, which extends the collection of the Public Purpose Charge to 2036.**

The investment of the Public Purpose Charge in energy efficiency and renewable resources help residential, commercial and industrial customers of PGE and PacifiCorp throughout the state save money on their electric bills, and help diversify our energy supply. These investments help create local jobs in Oregon and also help generate benefits for local communities. The Public Purpose Charge supports institutional customers such as schools, and they also support low-income communities. Given the widespread benefits associated with the Public Purpose Charge, Renewable Northwest supports HB 2494 and its aim to change the 2026 sunset to 2036.

These investments mean more than just helping Oregon achieve its clean energy vision. They also provide jobs for solar manufacturers and installers, and contribute a stable source of public revenue to local entities. Oregon's residential solar industry has been notably impacted by the sunset of the Residential Energy Tax Credit, and is at the same time bracing for the effects of new, federal solar tariffs. HB 2494 would help buffer against these impacts to the industry and create stability in the workforce.

As consumer interest in distributed energy generation, and solar energy in particular, continues to rise, **Renewable Northwest is pleased to support HB 2494.** This bill support increased consumer access to the benefits of homegrown renewable energy and is an important step towards a resilient and diverse clean energy future.

Sincerely,

Rikki Seguin
Policy Director