

April 4, 2019

Chair Helm
House Energy and Environment Committee
Oregon Legislative Assembly
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: HB 2857, HB 3274, HB 3407

Dear Chair Helm and members of the committee:

We are writing today to collectively express our opposition to HB 2857 and HB 3274. The two bills are largely the same and both include problematic provisions that exacerbate well-known problems with PURPA that are forcing the customers of Portland General Electric and Pacific Power to pay tens of millions of dollars more than competitively procured renewable energy would cost, leading to unnecessary rate increases. In addition, these bills change agreed upon provisions in the Renewable Portfolio Standard.

As customer advocates, environmental groups, electric utilities and union labor, we urge you to oppose both bills and turn instead to HB 3407 as a vehicle to find a compromise that works for irrigation districts, customer advocates, utilities, and environmental groups, as has long been Oregon's way of developing durable energy policy. We believe that HB 3407 provides a reasonable foundation to start this conversation and can lead, with your support, to a solution that will help irrigation districts fund their piping projects while mitigating unnecessary price increases or environmental impacts. HB 3407 is limited in scope to ensure that the beneficiaries of any deal go to the intended recipient – irrigation districts – and it doesn't change obligations and agreements in the RPS that were established in previous legislative sessions through the collaborative efforts of dozens of stakeholder groups.

Please send this bill to House Rules or to the Senate where it can continue to evolve.

