



Portland General Electric
121 SW Salmon Street · Portland, Ore. 97204

June 11, 2019

Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Natural Resources

Co-Chair Taylor	Co-Chair Reardon
Sen. Frederick	Rep. Holvey
Sen. Girod	Rep. Neron
Rep. Hayden	Rep. Brock-Smith

Re: SB 5545 Oregon Department of Energy Budget

Dear Committee Members:

Portland General Electric provides this letter to highlight a few important considerations as you debate the adoption of the State Department of Energy's (ODOE) 2019-21 biennial budget and to ask for your support and approval of the Legislative Fiscal Office (LFO) recommended budget. We believe this budget – with the reduction in the Energy Supplier Assessment (ESA) and introduction of general fund dollars – sets a positive direction for future budget development at the agency.

ODOE provides an important role in the functioning of a safe, clean and sustainable energy system in Oregon, including program implementation, data gathering and data analysis that informs policy development around energy efficiency, renewable resource development, sustainable transportation, energy siting and nuclear safety.

The LFO proposed budget enables the agency to continue this important work, while providing incentive to introduce more efficiencies in their operations. It does this specifically through an 8% reduction in the ESA for 2017-19. As the largest funder of the ESA, PGE appreciates the recognition that there are opportunities to streamline workflows and remove duplicative work at the agency. To this end, we also support the budget note that requires ODOE to report an analysis of existing programs and the use of ESA dollars to the Ways and Means committee in 2020.

Finally, we appreciate that the proposed budget provides the agency with general fund dollars. As members of ODOE's Energy Advisor Working Group (EAWG), we have recommended that there should be a recognition of the statewide significance of the work they do. For example, the information in the Biennial Energy Report benefits all Oregonians, not just ESA payers, and as such it makes sense for general fund dollars to support this work instead of it being completely funded through a tax on energy suppliers. While we recognize this one-time funding is to help cover debts associated with the Small-Scale Energy Loan Program, we believe that ODOE should receive some level of general funding every biennium to better reflect the work that they perform for all Oregonians.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Respectfully,

Sania Radcliffe
Director, Government Affairs and Environmental Policy
Portland General Electric