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February 12, 2020

The Honorable Jeff Golden  
The Honorable Herman Baertschiger, Jr.  
Chairman and Vice Chairman, Senate Committee on Wildfire Reduction and Recovery  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Senate Bill 1536 -3 Amendment (Sections 2-8) – Letter of Support

Dear Chair Golden and Vice Chairman Baertschiger,

PacifiCorp is an integrated electric utility serving 1.9 million customers in six states across the Pacific Northwest and Rocky Mountain regions. In Oregon, we operate as Pacific Power and serve approximately 615,000 customers. As the state's largest rural electricity provider across many fire-prone parts of the state, we recognize the importance of wildfire mitigation to every community we serve, and believe we have an obligation to provide safe, affordable and reliable service that includes a mitigation plan.

To that end, we are writing in support of the Senate Bill 1536 -3 amendment related to the wildfire mitigation plan language for electric utilities in the state, covered in sections 2-8 of the amendment.

As the committee is aware, in January 2019 Governor Kate Brown signed an executive order creating the Governor's Council on Wildfire Response. The Council was tasked with reviewing Oregon's current model for wildfire prevention, preparedness and response, and analyzing the sustainability of the current model to provide recommendations for improvement.

Over the year, the Council extensively reviewed current wildfire practices with cross-industry stakeholders and identified the need for sweeping changes to create fire-adapted communities, restore and maintain resilient landscapes, and address funding for wildfire response.

One of the highest priority recommendations in the Council's report was directed at the Oregon Legislature to pass legislation requiring utilities to prepare risk-based, wildfire

mitigation and recovery plans. Senate Bill 1536 with the -3 amendment (Sections 2-8) is the result of that recommendation.

Among other things, the bill with the -3 amendment (Sections 2-8) requires electric utilities to operate in compliance with risk-based wildfire protection plans approved by the Public Utility Commission. The plans require the implementation of inspection, maintenance, and vegetation management programs to protect public safety across the state. The plans are intended to minimize the probability that electrical infrastructure may be the origin or contributing source for the ignition of a catastrophic wildfire during extreme weather conditions, and embrace safety, prevention, mitigation, and recovery as central priorities.

Additionally, the oversight and approval by the Public Utility Commission and governing boards will provide the necessary flexibility for the plans to address unique circumstances and evolve over time. This is important as the threats and risks of catastrophic wildfire continue to be reviewed in light of overall fire prevention measures statewide.

We appreciate the committee's acknowledgement of the Governor's Council on Wildfire Response's work and the resulting legislation that clarifies the standards and procedures that a utility should prudently implement to mitigate the risk of catastrophic wildfire. It is a significant step forward that will allow Oregon to set a new standard of wildfire management and planning.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Annette Price". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "A" and a distinct "P".

Annette Price