



February 11, 2020

Senator Michael Dembrow  
Chair, Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee  
Oregon State Legislature

RE: SB 1530

Dear Chair Dembrow and Members of the Committee:

Renewable Northwest is a regional renewable energy advocacy non-profit based here in Oregon. Our members include 36 renewable energy companies and 24 environmental NGOs, all with a united goal of replacing fossil fuel electricity plants with clean renewable energy solutions. I am thankful for the efforts and time that been dedicated towards analyzing the costs and benefits of a cap and invest program. We are in support of SB 1530 for a variety of reasons, most importantly for the environmental, health and economic benefits it will bring to ALL Oregonians. SB1530 provides an opportunity to bring environmental benefits to the entire state while creating a more sustainable economy and opening up more opportunity for rural economic development in the form of clean energy projects.

The voluntary renewable energy market builds on, rather than competes with compliance markets in that it is essentially surplus to regulation. HB 2020 included a thoughtful allowance set aside for the voluntary renewable energy market, much like the mechanism in California. The allowance set aside is a consumer protection issue, ensuring that the money individual Oregonians spend on green power indeed results in the greenhouse gas emissions promised. The voluntary set aside was good for residential customers, cities and counties committing to a clean energy future, and large businesses in the state seeking a clean energy portfolio. This provision is absent from SB 1530, and Renewable Northwest feels strongly that existing policies promoting additionality in clean energy procurement such as the voluntary renewable energy market must be preserved as we roll out a cap and invest bill.

I look forward to a future that continues to decrease our dependence upon fossil fuels, and SB 1530 represents a landmark step towards that future. Renewable Northwest encourages the Oregon legislature to maintain the existing programs that have been so important to the development of our clean energy economy as we continue working to reduce our carbon emissions and combat climate change.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nicole Hughes", followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

Nicole Hughes  
Executive Director  
Renewable Northwest