



**STATEMENT OF AVANGRID RENEWABLES
OREGON DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY BUDGET
WAYS AND MEANS SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES
MARCH 3, 2021**

Co-Chairs Taylor and Reardon and members of the Subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of the 2021-2023 budget for the Oregon Department of Energy. I am Kevin Lynch, Managing Director of External Affairs for Avangrid Renewables.

Avangrid Renewables is headquartered in Portland, with wind, solar, and natural gas power generation facilities operating in Crook, Gilliam, Klamath, and Sherman Counties and additional facilities under or scheduled for construction in Gilliam, Sherman, and Wasco Counties. We employ approximately 400 people in full-time, permanent jobs in Oregon and paid more than \$12.4 million in property tax (or payments in lieu of tax) in 2020 with both figures likely to rise in 2021 and beyond.

Avangrid Renewables interacts with the Oregon Department of Energy with some frequency, especially on facility siting but in other contexts as well. The company is a covered entity for the Energy Supplier Assessment and pays fees related to facility siting. I participate in the Energy Advisory Working Group.

The Department provides great value to Oregonians across its quite wide scope of work. As a public information resource, ODOE compares well with its counterpart agencies across the US. The quality of the information they produce is excellent, as is the outreach to stakeholders.

My company interacts most with the Department on power generation facility siting. The Energy Facility Siting staff and the Council do crucial work and they do it well. This area is, however, resource constrained due to the growth of interest in siting renewable generation facilities in Oregon. This increased workload is a good thing for Oregon as the siting work and our project development translate to more clean energy, jobs, and tax revenues for Oregon and local communities. The budget proposes additional resources to meet an upswing in siting work and compliance. This increase properly reflects the higher workload the agency faces and is a reasonable addition that merits the support of the subcommittee.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

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