

March 8, 2021

WR Community Solutions, Inc. (WRCSI)
401 NE 1st St. Ste. A
Enterprise, OR 97828
(541) 426-8053



To: Chair Helm, Vice-Chair Owens, Vice Chair Reardon, and Members of the House Committee on Water
RE: Testimony in Support of HB 3221, the Oregon Renewable Options Program

Dear Chair Helm, Vice-Chair Owens, Vice Chair Reardon, and Members of the Committee:

Wallowa Resources Community Solutions Incorporated (WRCSI) is writing in support of HB 3221, which would create a green tariff program to support renewable energy goals in Oregon's communities and small-scale power producers.

WRCSI drives rural economic development through small-scale distributed clean energy project development. These clean energy projects save money for rural small businesses and residents, keep energy dollars circulating locally, contribute to strong independent and resilient rural communities and reduce carbon footprints. We have found that when you maximize the use and efficiency of our local renewable resources, it is a win for rural businesses, it is a win for rural communities, and it is a win for the environment we rely on.

WRCSI has developed three small hydro projects in Wallowa County, including two on irrigation infrastructure and one on county-owned municipal water delivery infrastructure. We have identified and are actively supporting the development of several other small hydropower project sites that could be developed using irrigation water in the county. We have also supported the installation of solar projects around the county.

One of the biggest challenges small scale projects face is getting an adequate rate for the power they sell. Most small projects have no way to be compensated for the local and regional benefits they provide, which go well beyond the electricity they deliver. In Wallowa County we see the opportunity for local hydropower projects to provide energy resilience and the revenues needed for irrigators to continue improving their systems, which can support higher water flows in the Lostine and Wallowa rivers.

HB 3221 would give Wallowa County a way to incorporate local projects into long-term local energy planning processes, work that is underway in the county right now. We respectfully request your support of HB 3221.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matt King", is written over the word "Sincerely,".

Matt King

WRCSI Program Manager