



NW Energy Coalition
for a clean and affordable energy future

**Testimony in Support of
SB 784
in front of the Senate Committee on
Energy and the Environment
9 March 2021**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on SB 784. For the record, my name is Jeff Bissonnette, representing the NW Energy Coalition, the region's broadest alliance of utilities, businesses, advocates and communities who are interested in advancing clean, reliable, affordable, equitable energy policy across the Pacific Northwest.

We are generally in support of the concepts contained in SB 784. We look especially at the parts of the bill relating to resiliency and green tariffs for municipal governments as well as the labor standards. All are issues that are ripe for moving forward.

On the resiliency front, we have seen several occurrences over the last year – wildfires on the West Coast, extreme low temperatures in Texas, ice and snow here in Oregon – that underscore the need to focus on how to keep the power on or get it back on quickly when the worst happens. We are gratified that the utilities are bringing so much attention to this critical need.

SB 784 raises the right questions and we especially appreciate the inclusion of flexible load programs, demand management programs, and hybrid solar energy and storage systems, and the importance of incorporating equity and energy burden concerns in meeting the needs of affected communities. We hope that this committee allows some forward movement to ensure that our utility systems can withstand extreme occurrences and play its needed role in helping utility customers get prepared for extreme situations and recover when those situations occur.

Regarding the green tariffs, this is another chapter in a long story about how to provide more renewable energy to customers who want it now while the utility adds more renewable resources over time in compliance with policies that impact the system as a whole. The green tariff conversation has generally been focused on large customers, that is, large companies that are trying to green the way that they do business. Adding the possibility for municipal governments to provide a pathway for their residents to help have more renewable energy come online faster is a good thing. We look forward to having the conversation about how to implement it if you decide to pass it through the legislature.

We are also pleased to see the labor standards discussion in this bill. We know that this discussion is happening under a number of difference legislative proposals and we would like to see it come to fruition in at least one of them.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify. I'm happy to answer any questions.