

Testimony, HB- 3180, HB-2021

April 5, 2021

Chair Marsh. I offer these written remarks because I wasn't recognized to testify before vice-chairs Brock Smith and Helm, and the committee on April 5, 2021. I commend you all for the substantial effort required to develop reasonable proposals to address both economic and environmental issues. Like Representative Helm, I believe there is a lot to like in HB-2021-5 AND in HB-3180. I am Andrew Beyer, President and CEO of EC Company, a \$350M company with 1,400 employees based in NW Portland for many decades. Our primary function is providing union electricians, design and management services to a very diverse set of clients, many of whom you would recognize if I offered a list. All 1,400 people and their families are counting on me and our leadership team to get it right – just as the people of Oregon are counting on you. We have managed, thankfully, to keep working through this pandemic, largely because we have followed the advice of medical professionals- masks, hygiene, distancing. So far as I can tell, Covid-19 cares not about your political party, nor about your state of residence. We work in Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Montana, Utah, Wyoming and Colorado, but most of our employees live and work in Oregon.

For the record, I am not related to Senator Beyer so far as I know, though we occasionally cross paths during conversations like this. EC is a member of NECA, AGC and Oregon Business for Climate. I speak on behalf of myself and our company within that context.

I do not affiliate with a particular political party, though I have given to the two primary parties, personally and through our associations. No offense, but you have all forgotten the meaning of compromise in favor of partisan bickering, and our nation and state are much the worse for it. I am a practical person, a businessperson with a heart, an Art Major from Southern Oregon University and an MBA from the U of O, a man who has succeeded as an educator, as a general contractor with Walsh Construction and Lease Crutcher Lewis and as a subcontractor with EC Company.

I think it is CRITICAL for us to consider the context in which we live. I live in Portland and visit the Oregon coast often. We have a small office in Bay City, just north of Tillamook. We help dairy farmers maintain power and also build projects for Tillamook Creamery. The Oregon Coast is an awesome place! I was heartened to hear that the Bald Eagle is no longer on the endangered species protection list. I watch them soar over the beach, valleys and coast mountains, along with hawks and falcons. As a country, through government regulation, we stopped using DDT about 50 years ago. I'm sure Puffins and Crows aren't happy about eagle resurgence, but our ecosystem is recovering because of that decision and regulations many decades ago. Many were unhappy with the decision, but it was the right thing to do, given scientific analysis of the impacts DDT was having on top predators. The same is true of scientific analysis of the impacts carbon emissions are having on our planet AND the economic analysis detailing the benefits of HB-3180 as provided by ECONorthwest.

This is an important moment of inflection when our world, in the broadest sense possible, is at risk. Some government intervention is required to help our ecosystem and economic system recover. You have two bills before you, 2021 and 3180. I commend you to combine the best of both. Global warming and carbon emissions don't consider state boundaries, but businesses do. We can't keep kicking these initiatives down the road, but neither should the benefits fall to other states when ours should take the lead and build projects that contribute in a meaningful way to reducing our carbon footprint. PacifiCorp

could certainly determine a ratio of investments in the states they serve. What they are offering is an unsigned IOU. This initiative should benefit the shareholders, customers **and** the TAXPAYERS and businesses of Oregon. If their focus and priority on cost efficiency carries the day, they will NOT build in Oregon. Of all the states PacifiCorp operates in, Oregon is the most difficult in which to develop projects. You will have to trust my deep experience in that regard....

None of us are perfect, including myself and EC. We recycle, use electric vehicles, have installed hundreds of charging stations across the Northwest, and are a longtime partner to the Energy Trust to reduce electrical usage and install solar systems. We have installed solar panels for businesses, schools and public entities. We have built several utility scale solar projects across the state and we hope will end up building many more. I agree with Representative Helm that these bills should be combined, and include mandates for projects built within Oregon.

As you think about ways to inspire both corporate and individual commitment to sustainable practices, I hope you will be BOLD to protect our communities, be COMMITTED to Oregon businesses, and focus on what's right for the people of Oregon and the world. There is a practical way to build Oregon carbon-free infrastructure AND help businesses. It's not just about carbon emissions, it's also about creating living-wage jobs for the people of Oregon. THAT is where the common ground of compromise lies. I hope that the endangered species of practical solutions rather than partisan bickering will survive this legislative session and begin to thrive in a state where business will be seen as one component that supports the common good. Our 1,400 employees are counting on it, and so am I.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit my comments.

Andrew L. Beyer
CEO, President
EC Company