



**Portland General Electric**

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February 3, 2022

Chair Kathleen Taylor  
Vice Chair Tim Knopp  
Senate Labor and Business Committee  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301

Chair Taylor, Vice Chair Knopp, and members of the committee,

I am writing to express my support for SB 1545 both as the Vice President of HR, Diversity, Equity & Inclusion for Portland General Electric and as the Vice Chair of the Oregon Workforce Talent and Development Board.

SB 1545 will provide much needed investments in our statewide workforce system to increase access for communities of color, women, veterans, low-income communities, rural and frontier communities, and participants in offender reentry programs.

The energy sector is in a period of exciting transformation as we look to build the clean energy future, expanding career opportunities with existing jobs and new career pathways that are developing out of evolving technologies. We believe it is critically important that this future is also equitable, accessible, and intentional about removing barriers.

We are excited about the opportunities that this bill will provide through the focus on construction and manufacturing which are critical components of building the clean energy future and related workforce pipeline in this state. These investments and important work simply cannot wait. Many of the jobs take years to be fully realized given the necessary training.

At PGE, we have a long-standing commitment to work-based learning experiences for youth and young adults through internship programs and a robust apprenticeship program in partnership with IBEW Local 125. While our customers are located in the Willamette Valley, we build and operate our generation facilities throughout Oregon, further highlighting the importance of ensuring these investments reach all corners of the state.

The Future Ready Oregon proposal recognizes the critical need for investments now, coupled with the longer-term planning needed to spur innovation and ensure Oregonians from diverse backgrounds across the state are able to see the world of possibility ahead of them. This approach aligns with PGE's values and the vision of the Oregon Workforce and Talent Development Board of equitable prosperity for all Oregonians. We urge your support in passing this bill.

Sincerely,

Anne Mersereau  
Vice President of HR, Diversity, Equity & Inclusion  
Portland General Electric