



**Testimony on House Bill 2530**  
**House Climate, Energy and Environment Committee**  
**February 6, 2023**

Good afternoon, Vice Chairs Levy and Levy, and members of the Committee. My name is Michelle Detwiler and I am the Executive Director of the Renewable Hydrogen Alliance.

RHA is a Pacific NW regional non-profit trade association that advocates using renewable energy to produce hydrogen and other carbon neutral fuels. RHA's membership represents the full value chain of the hydrogen ecosystem – fuel cell and fuel cell vehicle manufacturers, project developers, an Oregon tribe and a tribal member owned energy company, clean energy and transportation advocates, public transit agencies, labor unions and many others with an interest in the renewable and green electrolytic hydrogen sector. RHA is here today to testify in support of HB 2530 and the forthcoming -1 amendment.

- Recent state reports such as the 2022 Hydrogen Pathway Study and ODOE's Renewable Hydrogen Study affirm the importance and need for hydrogen as a clean energy and clean fuels option for Oregon to meet its ambitious climate goals.
- RHA, Climate Solutions, Sustainable NW and other stakeholders worked together to develop definitions for green electrolytic and renewable hydrogen that we believe will both facilitate the production of hydrogen in the state while making sure that this hydrogen is as clean as possible. RHA would like to thank Climate Solutions, Sustainable NW and other stakeholders for their time and work to come together on a consensus agreement on the definitions. We believe that these definitions are also aligned with what ODOE recommended in their Renewable Hydrogen Study.
  - To specify which sources of electricity or energy would be eligible to produce hydrogen we generally relied upon the Oregon RPS statute as it had a comprehensive list of what is considered a renewable energy resource in Oregon. And our goal is to differentiate green electrolytic hydrogen from renewable hydrogen by allowing production of renewable hydrogen from renewable resources, but in a way that is technologically neutral, in other words, not just from electricity.
  - We want to make sure this is clear and are working with LC on the appropriate language.
  - For Oregon, there is a benefit to developing hydrogen definitions after our West Coast neighbors have done so; enabling Oregon policymakers, agency staff and stakeholders to identify advantages and challenges that those states faced, as well as pitfalls and correct for those. In this way, Oregon can lay the foundation for a clean hydrogen economy that reflects our values and principles, while also bringing us into

alignment with Washington and California. Furthermore, putting agreed upon definitions in place also prepares us for west coast wide collaboration on economic development, climate change mitigation, technology advancement, best practice adoption, workforce development, job creation and environmental justice in the burgeoning hydrogen sector.

- RHA appreciates the changes to HB 2530 in the -1 amendment that would move the development of a state hydrogen strategy into a larger comprehensive state energy strategy.
- These definitions will guide the building out of a clean hydrogen economy in the state, leveraging millions in federal funding, and providing another valuable pathway for the state to meet its climate goals.
- Building Oregon's clean hydrogen economy also means jobs and it has been estimated that for every \$1 million invested 8 jobs would be created. It is why the building trades, electrical workers and ironworkers among other labor organizations strongly support the clean hydrogen sector.
- Thank you for the opportunity to speak today and happy to answer any questions.