

13 February 2023

House Committee on Climate, Energy and Environment  
Oregon State Capitol  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301

Subject: HB 2534 -1 - Support

Dear Chair Marsh, Vice-Chairs Levy and Levy, and Members of the Committee,

Energy is at the core of everything we do, make or use. Oregon's ambitious goal to reach 100% clean electricity by 2040, together with other measures, has made our state a leader in addressing the climate crisis. A comprehensive energy strategy envisioned by HB 2534 -1 is essential to meet these goals and ensure all Oregonians receive the social and economic benefits from developing the extraordinary renewable resources situated throughout the state.

The strategy will need to consider the many challenges and substantial opportunities to achieve an optimal energy future. While Oregon has abundant wind and solar, transitioning to these intermittent distributed resources will require transmission upgrades, deploying large amounts of storage and other changes to the grid.

One of these resources can be used as an example to illustrate the scope of the opportunity and some of the hurdles standing in the way. A recent PBS [story](#) cited authors of Princeton's Net-Zero America project saying "the best wind potential in the country, if not the world, is off the Northern California and Southern Oregon coast". Coos Bay is the largest deep draft coastal harbor from San Francisco to the Puget Sound and well suited to become the hub for this emerging industry. If the supply chain, assembly and service operations take root on the south coast, it will diversify the economy of the region and provide many sustainable family-wage jobs. Transmission upgrades will be needed to accommodate the massive generating capacity of our offshore wind. These upgrades will bring more resiliency to the coastal grid which is currently at the end of the line and suffers from outages and significant seismic risk. Finally, offshore wind has excellent complementarity with onshore wind and solar which can ultimately reduce the amount of storage that will be needed for a regional or national grid. A growing number of offshore wind developers around the world incorporate green hydrogen production with their projects. Hydrogen can play many roles in our clean energy future and could be particularly useful given offshore wind's higher capacity factor and the likelihood of curtailments as the grid struggles to add transmission fast enough.

It's important to note that while offshore wind is one of the many pieces a comprehensive state energy strategy needs to consider and optimize, the strategy itself needs to be "technology agnostic". I urge full support of HB 2034-1 including adequate funding for ODOE to complete this essential work.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Respectfully,

Michael Mitton

Metro Climate Action Team

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