

PGE comments on SB 124 – Grants for backup generation fueled by renewable hydrogen

February 17, 2023

As the energy sector undergoes a major transition to clean resources across the West, Portland General Electric (PGE) is highly focused on maintaining reliable electricity for our customers. We are building renewables and adding battery storage and supporting our customers in doing the same. In March, we will file our first combined Clean Energy Plan and Integrated Resource Plan with the Oregon Public Utility Commission, outlining our near-term action plan for clean energy resource procurement over the coming years.

PGE already partners with interested customers who own generators or install their own battery storage to have these resources available on standby (not operating) for required reserves, and in extreme circumstances, for PGE to draw upon those resources. PGE supports SB 124 as a means to provide public funding for clean backup storage that can power essential facilities in outage situations and could also be used to support the broader electric system to provide reserves for times of extremely high demand.

We encourage the committee to utilize the definitions of renewable and green electrolytic hydrogen contained within Attachment A of Climate Solutions' testimony on HB 2530, which we understand will be brought forward in a forthcoming consensus amendment.

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