



March 31, 2023

To: Representative Pam Marsh, Chair, House Climate, Energy and Environment Committee
Members of the House Climate, Energy and Environment Committee
From: Diane Brandt, Oregon State Director, Renewable Northwest
Re: **Support for HB 3579-1**

Dear Chair Marsh and Members of the Committee,

Renewable Northwest (“RNW”) is a regional, non-profit renewable energy advocacy organization based in Oregon, dedicated to decarbonizing the region by accelerating the transition to renewable electricity. Our members are a combination of renewable energy businesses and environmental and consumer groups. **RNW would like to offer support for HB3579-1 which establishes a Task Force on Establishing, Attracting, and Sustaining Manufacturing of Clean Energy Technology (“Task Force”).**

The bill asks the Task Force, among other duties, to leverage the significant federal funds available for clean technologies through the Inflation Reduction Act (“IRA”) to support local, domestic manufacturing. There are several technologies that are considered “clean technology,” including those that would support renewable energy production and energy efficiency. Offering support for manufacturing businesses that will provide essential materials to the renewable energy industry and renewable energy transition **is consistent with a key element of Oregon’s clean energy policies as set forth in HB 2021 (2021) - to provide benefit to all Oregonians** in the transition to non emitting electricity as much as practicable. Leveraging federal funds through this Task Force is making this benefit more practicable.

Having vital supplies for Oregon’s transition to non emitting electricity produced locally offers other benefits, as well. Oregon’s transition to non emitting electricity will rely heavily on wind, solar, and battery storage projects. Not only would having local clean technology manufacturing benefit Oregon’s economy, it would also provide benefits to the renewable energy industry by having more proximate supply sources. A case in point, the recent U.S. Department of Commerce’s investigation into potential violations of trade agreements by international solar panel manufacturers, which constricted solar panel supplies globally and nationwide, created complications and delays for renewable energy

projects throughout the United States and in Oregon. This disruption in an already busy and high-demand supply chain reinforced the importance of diversifying manufacturing sources, especially through domestic production. Taking advantage of the federal incentives for supporting domestic production of clean energy technology, as this bill proposes, would greatly benefit the renewable energy industry by creating a diversified, domestic supply while also providing local economic benefits - and having those options in-state is even better.

RNW appreciates your consideration of these comments and reiterates its **support for HB3579-1** as it aims to leverage federal funds to support an in-state clean tech manufacturing sector that has the potential to support Oregon's transition to renewable, non emitting energy resources.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Diane Brandt", with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Diane Brandt
Renewable Northwest