



April 25, 2023

Chair Sollman and members of the committee, my name is Elizabeth Howe representing Pacific Power.

Pacific Power is an investor-owned electric utility serving approximately 620,000 customers in Oregon, primarily in rural parts of the state.

Pacific Power opposes HB 3055A because our customers are likely to pay more for energy if this bill were to pass.

When developers receive the standard avoided cost price for qualified facilities under PURPA, it precludes the utility from negotiating with the developer based on the characteristics of the individual project. This locks us into a 20-year contract for energy that could cost significantly more than what we would otherwise pay. Some project characteristics, like dispatch ability, proximity to our load, complexity of transmission connections or required system upgrades, make each project more or less expensive, and more or less valuable to our system. This all has an impact on the cost of the energy and therefore customer rates.

The Public Utility Commission currently has the authority to adjust their methodology to balance the incentives for development of these projects with ensuring that our customers are economically indifferent to these energy facilities. The PUC is currently investigating solar and storage avoided cost rates, as well as the avoided cost methodology for all types of PURPA projects and the Legislature should let that investigation continue to ensure that all potential costs are accounted for. The PUC should retain the flexibility they currently have to balance interests and protect customers.

We urge your NO vote on this legislation.

Elizabeth Howe
Cell: 503-910-3270