



February 12, 2024

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

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

The Renewable Hydrogen Alliance (RHA) appreciates the opportunity to submit written testimony in support of House Bill 4112-3.

RHA is a Pacific Northwest regional non-profit trade association that advocates for using renewable energy to produce hydrogen and carbon neutral derivative fuels. RHA is proud to have in our membership hydrogen production equipment manufacturers, fuel cell and fuel cell vehicle manufacturers, utilities, public transit agencies, and several labor unions including ironworkers and construction trades representing thousands of workers in our region.

RHA supports the broad range of clean energy technologies potentially eligible for state funding under Section 1 of the bill. In particular, we appreciate the inclusion of zero emission vehicle components, and equipment used to produce green electrolytic hydrogen as defined by HB 2530 (2023).

Zero emitting hydrogen fuel cell vehicles will be an important complement to battery electric vehicles, in particular in the public transit and long haul freight trucking segments. They have advantages such as longer range even in the extreme cold, less weight and no loss of cargo capacity as they do not have to accommodate large battery packs. Electrolyzers powered by renewable energy produces hydrogen with very low or zero carbon emissions which can be used as fuel for zero emitting vehicles, to decarbonize industrial processes, produce “green” fertilizer or power fuel cells to supply quiet, non-emitting backup power and replace highly polluting, noisy diesel backup power systems.

Supporting the development and manufacturing of these clean technologies in Oregon will create good paying, skilled jobs, broaden manufacturing sector diversity and the tax revenue base in the state, attract clean energy investment and complement the public policy and financial support to build out hydrogen related clean technology manufacturing in our neighboring states of Washington and California.

HB 4112-1 is also a positive step toward demonstrating Oregon’s policy and financial commitment to furthering the Biden-Harris Administration’s clean energy, workforce development and strong labor standards goals, and could help potentially leverage millions of dollars available in federal funding.

Thank you again and RHA is happy to answer any questions you may have and be a resource for further information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Michelle Detwiler".

Michelle Detwiler
Executive Director, Renewable Hydrogen Alliance
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