



## Oregon HB 2064 Testimony House Committee 02.06.25

Hello members, I am Zoe Bennett, senior policy analyst with Reimagine Power, offering my testimony in support of HB 2064.

In 2023, the Oregon legislature passed [HB 3630](#), creating a county resiliency program grant as the first step toward ensuring energy system reliability across the state. Today's bill, HB 2064, will expand on this initiative, bolstering the development of microgrids and increasing access to community resiliency solutions throughout Oregon.

Legislative leadership in states like Colorado have successfully laid out a similar framework for advancing microgrid development and accelerating project deployment. Earlier this year, the Colorado Energy Office published a final edition of their [Microgrid Roadmap](#), a key directive of enabling legislation passed in 2022 ([HB22-1249](#)), marking a progressive step forward for policymakers and regulators to develop electric reliability and resiliency solutions across the state.

Both Oregon and Colorado deal with outages caused by extreme weather events, including severe snowstorms like this week's storm in Southern Oregon. Microgrids are a valuable tool for keeping the lights on and communities safe in this type of emergency.

In Colorado, microgrids like the [Northside Aztlan Community Center Resilience Hub](#) in Fort Collins demonstrate the value microgrids provide during an outage. This city-owned community center acts as an emergency shelter and maintains power when the grid goes down. Beyond emergency scenarios, the power system also provides support during normal operating conditions, sending power to the grid during peak hours to help keep energy costs low.

Another notable example is the [Red Feather Lakes Microgrid](#) in Larimer County. This microgrid supports a small mountain community residing at the end of a long distribution line, particularly isolated and vulnerable to power outages. When weather disrupts this community's connection to the grid, the system here protects the local library, post office, local businesses, and critical resources like fire response and emergency medical services.

The development of systems such as these would provide Oregon with increased local resilience and fortification for vulnerable communities. Along with our coalition partners, Reimagine Power is in strong support of HB 2064. This bill is the next step in Oregon's path to a more resilient power system that can better protect

residents from the impacts of outages. Thank you for your time and attention today. We respectfully request your Aye vote on HB 2064.

*/s/ Zoe Bennett*

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