



Community Renewable Energy Association
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Subject: CREA Testimony in support of HB 2064

Honorable Chair Lively, Vice-Chair Gamba, Vice-Chair Bobby Levy, and members of the committee:

On behalf of the Community Renewable Energy Association (or CREA), I'm writing in support of HB 2064. CREA an intergovernmental entity representing local governments and developers of renewable energy facilities in Oregon since 2007.

Members of CREA include counties, irrigation districts, project developers, for-profit businesses and non-profit organizations. CREA supports business and economic opportunities through renewable energy development in a competitive environment. We support use of free enterprise principles to create economically and environmentally responsible electric generation within the State of Oregon.

CREA has a long history of supporting micro-grid concepts and communities that have sought innovative energy concepts to diversify and build resiliency, especially in rural communities that face capacity issues and outages.

HB 2064 directs the PUC to take action towards a functional system that could allow for reasonable shared costs for community energy resilience that is provided by a microgrid. It would mandate that the PUC allow for redundant infrastructure that supports community microgrids and approve the development of microgrids, if they meet certain standards. HB 2064 also provides DCBS and local governments the clarity that they need to adopt rules and regulations to facilitate and support microgrids.

The policy changes in HB 2064 allow governmental bodies to take steps towards allowing and developing guidelines for microgrids, which will be a critical piece of energy diversification and resilience.

The challenges surrounding our grid today are certainly complex, but not unsolvable, which is why we feel it is critical to use every tool at our disposal to enable communities and our state to find solutions. Although the PUC, DCBS and local governments already have some authority existing within statute, it is important for the state legislature to provide direction and give appropriate instruction to use that authority.

Thank you for your time and consideration. CREA hopes the legislature will support this concept and move the bill forward.

Regards,

James Williams
CREA Executive Director