



Community Renewable Energy Association
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Subject: CREA Testimony in support of HB 2065

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

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB 2065 on behalf of the Community Renewable Energy Association (or CREA).

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.

The purpose of this bill is to allow communities to conduct a study or engineering evaluation that a public utility requires for an application to interconnect a community renewable energy project or microgrid using a third party engineer.

The IOUs are already using these same engineers. By allowing them to contract directly with other parties the state is removing a layer of unnecessary burden that should be able to speed up the timelines for the development of micro grids, which are critical to local grid resiliency.

As you heard during the public hearing, the development of micro grids not only provides more stability for local communities to continue power during emergencies, but it also as a secondary benefit could stabilize the power flow directed to the communities that experience fluctuations in frequency, amperage and/or voltage. This means some Oregonians will be able to extend the shelf-life of appliances and major machinery in the areas served by the grid year-round.

Micro-grids can serve a much purpose throughout our state aside from resiliency, and they do not need to be attached to the larger more complex grid. Communities sometimes wish to leverage local resources for generation opportunities, and to ensure that locally generated power is used locally, whether as a backup during outages, or for industrial symbiosis and cogeneration opportunities.

Thank you for considering moving this legislation forward. To support further resilient infrastructure in Oregon.

Regards,

James Williams
CREA Executive Director

