



February 12, 2026

To: Representative John Lively, Chair, House Committee on Climate, Energy, and Environment
Representative Mark Gamba, Vice Chair, House Committee on Climate, Energy, and Environment
Representative Bobby Levy, Vice Chair, House Committee on Climate, Energy, and Environment
Members of the House Committee on Climate, Energy, and Environment

From: Diane Brandt, Policy & Legislative Affairs Director, Renewable Northwest

Re: Support for HB 4076-1

Chair Lively, Vice Chair Gamba, Vice Chair Levy, and Members of the Committee;

Renewable Northwest (“RNW”) is a regional clean energy advocacy nonprofit based in Oregon, dedicated to decarbonizing the electricity grid by accelerating the transition to clean energy resources. Our members include renewable energy and storage developers and businesses, environmental organizations, and consumer advocates. Thank you for the opportunity to offer our **support for HB 4076 with the -1 amendment which would create a category for energy facilities to receive goal compliance at EFSC when using surplus interconnection.**

Oregon and the Pacific Northwest region are grappling with how to meet growing electricity demand. From billions in needed infrastructure upgrades to GWs of generation projects waiting to come online, there is a lot of work ahead of us to ensure a reliable and affordable electricity grid for Oregon and the region. There are key bottlenecks in getting these projects permitted, built, and operational such as the wait to interconnect to the transmission system and the thorough permitting process at the Energy Facility Siting Council. HB 4076 -1 proposes a reasonable pathway for alleviating these pressure points.

The -1 amendment proposes to offer goal compliance to a proposed energy facility if it is using surplus interconnection from an existing project and is limited to 2-miles around the original site

certificate. This does not circumvent the EFSC process and projects will still undergo the typical standards review for energy facilities. It does encourage the use of existing interconnection infrastructure with excess capacity to accommodate other projects. This approach offers a right-sized incentive for prospective projects to look for locations that optimize existing infrastructure and also alleviates a key wait time and cost element in project development - waiting for and building interconnection to the transmission system.

This approach offers cost savings, time savings, and naturally has sideboards in the finite number of interconnections with capacity to accommodate a new energy facility and 2-mile application. This is an efficient use of existing infrastructure and supports getting much needed energy projects online quickly.

RNW supports HB 4076-1 because it offers a sensible pathway for certain projects to come online quickly in a cost effective way.

Thank you.

Diane Brandt
Policy & Legislative Affairs Director
Renewable Northwest