



February 23, 2026

Senate Committee on Energy and Environment
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court St. NE Salem Oregon 97301

Oregon Clean Grid Collaborative's Support for HB 4031-2

Dear Chair Sollman, Vice-chair Brock Smith, and members of the committee,

The Oregon Clean Grid Collaborative (OCGC) respectfully submits the following testimony in strong support of HB 4031 with the adopted -2 amendment, legislation that temporarily allows certain renewable energy projects to go through the pre-existing county permitting pathway in light of expiring federal tax credits.

OCGC represents environmental justice, ratepayer, conservation, labor, and clean energy advocates from across Oregon who are committed to ensuring that Oregon transitions quickly, efficiently, and equitably to clean energy. Specifically, we seek to ensure that grid planning, governance, markets, and investments are aligned to maximize the power of the grid and prioritize reliability; accelerate grid decarbonization; equitably, affordably, and reliably deliver clean energy resources to end users and prioritize community benefits; support meaningful economic development in the region that prioritizes family-wage job creation in Oregon; and minimize impacts to environmental and cultural resources.

Oregon is at a critical moment. We are expecting significant load growth while we simultaneously transition to cleaner energy sources and upgrade aging infrastructure. The need for additional clean energy generation and transmission is well documented in regional studies, utility integrated resource plans, and state directives. While Oregon has made progress towards meeting our clean energy targets and accommodating future load growth, there is still significant work ahead of us.

At the same time, recent federal actions have introduced immense uncertainty into clean energy development. The passage of H.R. 1 significantly rolled back clean energy tax incentives created under the Inflation Reduction Act. Incentives that were initially expected to last through 2030 now require projects to commence construction by early July 2026 and become fully

operational within 4 years. These shortened timelines are fundamentally misaligned with the realities of siting, permitting and constructing energy projects.

Clean energy projects take years to site, permit, finance, and construct. Without this bill, feasible projects that were planned accounting for federal incentives are now at risk of cancellation, threatening needed investments in our grid to maintain reliability and affordability.

HB 4031-2 responds to this moment with a narrow, time-limited solution. The bill allows a subset of clean energy projects to bypass the Energy Facility Siting Council (EFSC) and instead opt into the county permitting process in the jurisdiction where the project is proposed. This exception is limited in project eligibility and time duration and does not run roughshod over Oregon's land use requirements or environmental protections. Oregon's county permitting processes are robust, and counties are often best positioned to understand their local needs.

By allowing projects to go through the county permitting process, HB 4031-2 will shorten timelines for projects, enabling them to capture federal tax credits before they expire - savings which ultimately flow to Oregon ratepayers. Without this bill, these projects are at risk of not penciling out, resulting in lost investment, lost jobs, and delays in Oregon's clean energy buildout.

HB 4031-2 keeps Oregon's clean energy buildout on track, protects private investments, supports job creation, and helps ensure that the state can meet reliability and affordability goals during a time of federal uncertainty. For these reasons, the Oregon Clean Grid Collaborative urges the committee to support HB 4031-2. Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments.

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