



June 22, 2017

TO: Representative Jennifer Williamson, Chair,
House Committee on Rules
Members, House Committee on Rules

FR: Rikki Seguin, Policy Director, Renewable Northwest

RE: Support of HB 2020

Dear Chair Williamson:

Renewable Northwest is a regional, non-profit renewable energy advocacy organization based in Oregon. **We are pleased to support HB 2020, a bill to support the Oregon Department of Energy and refocus its mission to better support the state in meeting both its energy policy and greenhouse gas reduction goals.** We are comfortable with the changes being contemplated by the bill sponsor and appreciate the diligent work.

Our members are a combination of renewable energy businesses and environmental and consumer groups. We advocate for the expansion of environmentally responsible renewable energy resources in the Northwest through collaborations with government, industry, utilities, customers, and advocacy groups. Our organization shares a positive and productive relationship with the Oregon Department of Energy (the Department) with the goal of ensuring that the benefits renewable resources bring to Oregon are fully realized. Renewable Northwest, together with energy stakeholders across the state, collaborates with the Department in both the policy and regulatory arenas.

The Department fills a crucial role in the study, design, and implementation of renewable energy policies in Oregon, and is uniquely qualified and positioned to help the state achieve its energy policy goals. **Given the strong correlation between climate and energy, we support HB 2020's aim to better link energy generation and consumption with the state's greenhouse gas reduction goals.** This connection, and the Department's reorganization into the Oregon Department of Energy and Climate, will allow for high quality analysis and technical expertise on the two related subjects that can be applied to policy development, implementation of rulemaking, and compliance tracking.

As we face a changing energy future, with the state moving away from coal-fired resources and toward a 50% renewable energy standard, and as the state considers its role in addressing climate change head on, it will be critical to have an agency focused on the both climate and energy, as well as their undeniable link.

Renewable Northwest applauds the good work of the Oregon Global Warming Commission, and supports its transition into the Interagency Climate Coordinating Committee. As multiple state agencies consider their role in meeting the state's energy policy and greenhouse gas reduction goals, we appreciate the support the Committee's role in evaluating and coordinating myriad state agencies in their efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, consistent with the state's greenhouse gas reduction goals.

We ask that the Committee support HB 2020, which will lead to a Department that is forward-looking and well-equipped to assist the state in meeting its energy policy and greenhouse gas reduction goals.

Sincerely,

Rikki Seguin, Policy Director

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Bonneville Environmental
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