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Emerald PUD Testimony on Renewable Natural Gas

February 21, 2019

Chair Dembrow and Members of the Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources,

Emerald PUD appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony on the renewable natural gas program being contemplated in SB 98. As an electric service provider, we maintain the rights to the landfill gas produced at the Short Mountain Landfill in Lane County. Over the past two years, we have worked with multiple natural gas providers to study the development of a renewable natural gas project at this location. We believe such a project could bring long-term benefits to both the environment and our rural customers.

Although the short-term markets for renewable natural gas are supportive of potential projects like ours, we have found few, if any, parties willing to engage in long-term purchase commitments. Such commitments are essential to reduce the risk involved in making the long-term capital investments necessary to clean and transport the gas into the wholesale pipeline.

A well-designed renewable natural gas program in Oregon will incentivize providers to help move projects like ours forward. Allowing natural gas utilities to recover projects costs in their rates will provide greater certainty to all parties looking to make investments in renewable gas infrastructure. This is likely to spur new renewable resource developments throughout the state.

We have reviewed the draft language of SB 98 and appreciate that the definition of "Renewable Natural Gas" includes biogases such as those produced in landfills. We encourage the Committee to move forward with this legislation as written and look forward to seeing the program's implementation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Scott Coe". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Scott Coe
General Manager
Emerald PUD