

**SB 508 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

**Senate Committee On Environment and Natural Resources**

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**Meeting Dates:** 3/7

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Allows electricity generated by a hydroelectric facility or other equipment that generates electricity through the use of hydroelectric energy to be used to comply with the renewable portfolio standard.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

**EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

No amendment.

**BACKGROUND:**

The Oregon Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) directs Oregon utilities to source a defined percentage of their retail electricity sales from qualified renewable resources by specific dates. In 2007, Senate Bill 838 adopted a 25 percent RPS by 2025 for large utilities. In 2016, Senate Bill 1547 increased the RPS to 50 percent by 2040 while mandating the elimination of coal generation from Oregon rates by 2030.

Electricity generated by a renewable energy facility that became operational on or after January 1, 1995 is generally allowed to be used to comply with the RPS. For hydroelectric facilities, electricity from a facility that became operational before January 1, 1995 may be used to comply with the RPS only under specified conditions.

Senate Bill 508 would allow electricity generated by a hydroelectric facility or other equipment that generates electricity through the use of hydroelectric energy to be used to comply with the RPS.