



March 6, 2019

Senator Michael Dembrow, Chair
Senate Committee on Environment & Natural Resources
900 Court Street NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Chair Dembrow and Members of the Senate Committee on Environment & Natural Resources:

The Oregon Municipal Electric Utilities Association (OMEU) is pleased to support SB 508, which allows electricity generated by hydropower to comply with the State's renewable portfolio standard (RPS). As one of our utility general managers put it, "It's about time!"

OMEU is made up of eleven members representing municipally owned and operated electric utilities. As consumer-owned utilities (COUs), we are directly accountable to the people we serve through our city councils and local governing boards.

Our utilities purchase nearly all our energy from the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), which is predominately carbon-free hydroelectricity.

Hydropower, the original renewable, is the backbone of the Northwest's low carbon emissions electric grid. The flexible attributes of hydropower, especially storage and ramping capability, are uniquely suited to balance the more intermittent generation sources that are the current RPS mainstays—wind and solar.

It is important that our state carbon policies recognize the important role that existing hydro generation plays in limiting state carbon emissions. Today, instead of the relying on least-cost solutions and scientific emissions data, the existing statutory framework depends on technology-specific answers that devalue hydropower.

OMEU finds that SB 508 is a common-sense update to the RPS statute whose time has come. We look forward to working with the Legislature and stakeholders on these statutory updates.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jennifer Joly".

Jennifer Joly
Director

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