

Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians
AirWorks, Inc.
Alaska Housing Finance Corporation
Alliance to Save Energy
Allumia
Alternative Energy Resources Organization
Ameresco
American Rivers
Backbone Campaign
Beneficial State Bank
BlueGreen Alliance
Bonneville Environmental Foundation
Byrd Barr Place
City of Ashland
City of Seattle Office of Sustainability & Environment
CleanTech Alliance
Climate Smart Missoula
Climate Solutions
Community Action Center of Whitman County
Community Action Partnership Assoc. of Idaho
Community Action Partnership of Oregon
Earth and Spirit Council
Earth Ministry
Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon
eFormative Options
Energy350
EnergySavvy
Energy Trust of Oregon
ENGIE Services U.S.
Enhabit
Environment Oregon
Environment Washington
EQL Energy
Forth
Global Ocean Health
Green Energy Institute at Lewis & Clark Law School
Homes for Good
Home Performance Guild of Oregon
Human Resources Council, District XI
Idaho Clean Energy Association
Idaho Conservation League
Idaho Rivers United
League of Women Voters Idaho
League of Women Voters Oregon
League of Women Voters Washington
Montana Audubon
Montana Environmental Information Center
Montana Renewable Energy Association
Montana River Action
Multnomah County Office of Sustainability
National Center for Appropriate Technology
National Grid
Natural Resources Defense Council
New Buildings Institute
Northern Plains Resource Council
Northwest EcoBuilding Guild
Northwest Energy Efficiency Council
NW Natural
OneEnergy Renewables
Opportunities Industrialization Center of WA
Opportunity Council
Oracle
Oregon Citizens' Utility Board
Oregon Energy Fund
Oregon Environmental Council
Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility
Oregon Solar Energy Industries Association
Pacific Energy Innovation Association
Pacific NW Regional Council of Carpenters
Portland General Electric
Puget Sound Advocates for Retired Action
Puget Sound Cooperative Credit Union
Renewable Northwest
Save Our *wild* Salmon
Seattle City Light
Seinergy
Sierra Club
Sierra Club, Idaho Chapter
Sierra Club, Montana Chapter
Sierra Club, Washington Chapter
Small Business Utility Advocates
Smart Grid Northwest
Snake River Alliance
Snohomish County PUD
Solar Installers of Washington
Solar Oregon
Solar Washington
South Central Community Action Partnership
Southeastern Idaho Community Action Agency
Spark Northwest
Spokane Neighborhood Action Partners
Sustainable Connections
The Climate Trust
The Energy Project
Transition Missoula
UCONS, LLC
Union Of Concerned Scientists
United Steelworkers of America, District 12
Washington Environmental Council
Washington Local Energy Alliance
Washington Physicians for Social Responsibility
Washington State Community Action Partnership
Washington State Department of Commerce
Washington State University Energy Program
YMCA Earth Service Corps
Zero Waste Vashon



NW Energy Coalition
for a clean and affordable energy future

April 2, 2019

Chair Helm and Members of the House Energy & Environment Committee

Oregon State Capitol Salem, OR 97301

Re: HB 2494

Dear Chair Helm and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the NW Energy Coalition, I am writing to express our support for HB 2494, which will extend the sunset for the public purpose charge until 2036.

The NW Energy Coalition is an alliance of about 100 environmental, civic and human service organizations, progressive utilities and businesses in Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Montana and British Columbia. We promote development of renewable energy and energy conservation, consumer protection, low-income energy assistance, and fish and wildlife restoration on the Columbia and Snake rivers.

The public purpose charge provides many benefits to the ratepayers of Portland General Electric and PacifiCorp, including ensuring that least cost energy efficiency is procured as a resource to lower costs for customers, stimulating distributed renewable energy resource development, as well as proving energy assistance to low-income customers to help them afford their utility bills.

The public purpose charge energy efficiency and renewable energy services are currently provided through the Energy Trust of Oregon. These programs help customers of these two utilities reduce energy costs, increase productivity, contribute health and safety benefits, and reduce environmental impacts including greenhouse gas reductions. The Energy Trust is model organization revered across the country for its ability to produce significant results for Oregon households, businesses and industry. The Oregon Public Utility Commission oversees the organization and the current programs and management are effective and thorough – ensuring that utility customer resources are spent efficiently and effectively to reduce system costs and individual consumer bills.

Years ago, when the public purpose charge was established by this legislature in HB 1149, the leaders of Oregon created a system that functions well to ensure system benefits to customers of Pacificorp and Portland General Electric. Beyond those benefits to ratepayers, the public purpose charge has also provided jobs, economic development and carbon reduction that benefit the entire state.

The NW Energy Coalition strongly recommends a yes vote on HB 2494 to ensure the continued success of the public purpose charge in Oregon.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W Gerlitz". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Wendy Gerlitz
Policy Director