



March 8, 2021

To: Chair Helm, Vice-Chair Owens, Vice Chair Reardon, and Members of the House Committee on Water

RE: Testimony in Support of HB 3221, the Oregon Renewable Options Program

Dear Chair Helm, Vice-Chair Owens, Vice Chair Reardon, and Members of the Committee:

Bonneville Environmental Foundation (BEF) is writing in support of HB 3221, a bill that promotes environmental stewardship all while helping Oregon's residents and businesses achieve important clean energy and resilience goals.

At BEF, we believe addressing the current state of our planet requires innovation, creative problem solving and discovering new ways of doing business that value the natural resources we depend on. Within our renewable energy programs, BEF helps utility and business partners design and build small-scale renewable energy projects that support local economic development and achieve renewable energy goals. As an expert in community renewables project development, utility interconnection, community engagement and project financing, BEF provides comprehensive project support, matching grant programs and other services to reduce barriers to entry and optimize project success.

HB 3221 would work in concert with our programs, giving local renewable energy developers a clear path to making clean energy projects viable while providing transparency into how new rates are determined through oversight by the Oregon Public Utility Commission (OPUC).

The Oregon Renewable Options Program, established by HB 3221, provides a voluntary pathway for communities and local renewable energy developers to increase the amount of clean energy powering Oregon's grid, increase community resilience, keep electricity rates affordable, and enhance local clean energy job development opportunities.

HB 3221 addresses both sides of the climate change problem: it works to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by bringing more clean energy onto Oregon's grid and it increases the ability of communities to adapt to the impacts of climate change by providing a more resilient electricity supply, which can power critical services during severe weather events and wildfires. It is a win-win-win opportunity to fight climate

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change, keep electricity rates affordable, and protect Oregon's natural and working environments, communities, and businesses.

We respectfully request your support of HB 3221.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Raphaela Hsu-Flanders', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Raphaela Hsu-Flanders  
Program Manager - Renewables  
Bonneville Environmental Foundation

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