



March 22, 2021

RE: *HB 2021*

Chair Marsh and Members of the House Committee on Energy and Environment:

I am the Executive Director of the Northwest Energy Efficiency Council (NEEC), a non-profit business association representing over 100 businesses in Oregon and Washington that deliver smart buildings, demand flexibility and energy efficiency products and services. Our members have long worked to increase energy conservation within Oregon by increasing building and home efficiency. We are supportive of House Bill 2021 and applaud the work of the bill sponsor and others in the legislature who have devoted time to creating a thoughtful approach to decarbonizing electricity within Oregon.

We want to share some general thoughts about clean energy policy in the state:

- **Clean electricity policy should consider the demand-side equally with the supply-side.** Decarbonizing electricity is an important goal, and it cannot be reasonably achieved without also considering how we can shape consumer energy loads to better align with when renewable energy sources are producing power in the form of grid-interactive buildings and similar performance-based programs. The bill creates space for energy storage—an important part of the solution—but there is little content that addresses the need for this consumer load shaping. This is a missed opportunity. Policies that encourage utilities to procure demand-side building-as-grid resources provide those utilities with more options in how they decarbonize the grid. In having more options, utilities can manage their service in the most efficient and affordable manner.
- **Policies that encourage demand-side load management lead to local economic development.** This is an economic development opportunity for the state of Oregon—it creates a market for infrastructure and building-level improvements that generate local, Oregon-based jobs. These are family-wage jobs that cannot be performed out of state and provide local work for electricians, HVAC contractors and other building contractors. This also elevates the importance of skilled commercial building operators who can manage building equipment and performance for grid value, as well as for the health and comfort of building occupants.
- **Policies that encourage demand-side load management lead to healthier indoor air quality and safer building conditions for occupants.** Encouraging building investment through policies that enable market-based procurement of demand-side load shaping creates healthier and safer building conditions for residents of Oregon. Clean energy policy that equally considers the need for scalable demand-side management opens opportunities for building improvements that improve indoor air filtration and ventilation and mitigate deferred building maintenance that leads to unsafe conditions inside commercial and residential buildings.

We appreciate your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kerry Meade".

Kerry Meade
Executive Director
Northwest Energy Efficiency Council