



NW Energy Coalition
for a clean and affordable energy future

**Testimony on
HB 3180
in front of the House Committee on
Energy & Environment
5 April 2021**

Chair Marsh, Vice-Chair Brock Smith, Vice-Chair Helm and members of the committee:

My name is Jeff Bissonnette and I am testifying today on behalf of the NW Energy Coalition. The Coalition is the region's broadest alliance of utilities, businesses, advocates, and communities who are interested in advancing clean, reliable, affordable, equitable energy policy across the Pacific Northwest.

My comments today will focus on the -3 amendments for HB 3180, dated 31 March 2021.

As we testified earlier today, the coalition fully supports a 100% Clean Electricity Standard. As we said earlier, there has been some debate over whether that standard should be delivery-based, that is, expanding Oregon's existing Renewable Energy Standard as HB 3180 proposes to do, or emissions-based, like HB 2021 outlines and which the committee just reviewed. Again, the coalition believes both approaches are workable and can provide the basis for getting Oregon to a 100% Clean electricity system.

However, the vast bulk of discussions for a 100% Clean Electricity Standard this session has been centered around an emission-based approach. Therefore, a lot more thought has been given in that arena on how to align a 100% clean policy with other existing policies and how to balance the interests of utility customers, energy developers, community interests, labor interests, and the utilities themselves. As you heard, discussions around that bill were extensive, often arduous and contentious, but ultimately productive. Many concepts that are in HB 3180 are also contained in HB 2021 but have received more thorough vetting in that bill. At this point, HB 3180 is just not ready to move forward.

Here are a couple of examples where the discussion on HB 2120 has overtaken HB 3180:

- When Oregon's Renewable Energy Standard was first adopted in 2007, renewable resources needed some help to get to the point where they could be cost-effective. Setting a requirement that twenty-five percent of load needed to be served by renewable resources by 2025 helped in that goal. By 2016, when the standard was updated, requiring that fifty percent of load be met by renewables by 2040, that step was made to take advantage of the falling costs of renewables. The focus is now on

emissions and it is helpful for utilities, regulators, and other stakeholders to take a more holistic view of how to reduce emissions in the electricity sector rather than to solely focus on renewables. HB 3180, by just focusing on renewables, may miss opportunities to reduce emissions.

- As expansion of a delivery-based renewable energy policy, HB 3180 is not able to account for energy efficiency as clearly as an emissions-based approach does. HB 2021 explicitly calls out the current statutory requirement for efficiency and suggests that even more could be acquired within the proposed clean energy plans called for in that bill. Until now, efficiency and renewables have been considered somewhat separately but under an emissions approach, can be brought together and coordinated even more effectively.
- Lastly, HB 3180 calls for 100 percent clean electricity by 2050. This falls short of even our neighboring states of California and Washington who, in pursuing their own delivery-based approach to 100% clean electricity, set a requirement of meeting their standards by 2045. As you heard, HB 2021 proposes 100% reduction in emissions by 2040, a full decade earlier than HB 3180. In a climate where every year is important, ten years are monumentally important.

In conclusion, HB 3180 is not ready to move forward at this time without the similar level of discussion, debate and negotiation that HB 2021 has had.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HB 3180. I'm happy to answer questions.