



*Scott D. Bolton
Senior Vice President,
Transmission Development
825 NE Multnomah Street, Suite 2000
Portland, OR 97232-4116
Office (503) 813-7202
Fax (503) 813-6060*

April 22, 2021

The Honorable Lee Beyer
Chairman, Senate Committee on Energy and Environment
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: House Bill 2475A – Letter of Support

Dear Chair Beyer,

Thank you for the opportunity to write in support of House Bill 2475A.

As you may know, Pacific Power is part of a multi-state electric utility, known as PacifiCorp, which serves customers in six states across the Pacific Northwest and Rocky Mountain regions. In Oregon, we serve over 620,000 customers in about 200 communities. That equates to about one in four Oregonians who rely on our service, and we are committed to providing safe, affordable, and reliable energy to power their homes and businesses.

Pacific Power was very engaged in the Oregon Public Utility Commission's process examining Oregon's electric utility regulatory structure called for in Senate Bill 978 (2017). That work covered a broad spectrum of issues and stakeholder views and was instructive to our company about the need to create more opportunities for inclusion and representation in the regulatory process.

Pacific Power and Oregon's regulated electric utilities have a long history of providing service to all customers that seek it on a non-discriminatory basis. As a fully integrated service provider, we have been and will continue to be a successful model for ensuring affordable, dependable, and accountable service that leaves no person or community behind.

House Bill 2475A gives the Public Utility Commission the authority to approve different rate structures, like discounts, that reduce energy burden. Rates are considered fair when they are broadly affordable, but this does not account for the fact that people have different levels of income and feel the effects of their energy bill differently.

The bill also authorizes public utilities to enter into agreements to provide financial assistance for organizations, limited to \$500,000 annually, to represent the interests of low-income and environmental justice communities, including rural communities, so that more parties have a voice at the utility regulation table. As Oregon's largest rural electricity provider, we see this as an important step.

Increased participation will elevate different viewpoints in regulatory proceedings that historically have not been well-represented. To that end, we do not support efforts to limit stakeholders from intervening and recovering costs associated with policy dockets at the Public Utility Commission. For example, the Citizens' Utility Board, has successfully balanced customer interests in those kinds of dockets, and to limit their ability to recover costs would ultimately harm customers.

Pacific Power believes HB 2475A as it passed the House is an important tool for the regulatory toolbox that will surface equitable solutions to help those in need. The bill is the product of substantial stakeholder involvement and will allow us to take an important step toward improving the electric sector's regulatory model.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Scott D. Bolton". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'S' and 'B'.

Scott D. Bolton
Senior Vice President, Transmission Development
Pacific Power