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Testimony of Kevin A. Lynch, Avangrid Renewables
Committee on Revenue
Oregon House of Representatives
May 13, 2021

Good afternoon, Chair Nathanson and Committee members:

My name is Kevin Lynch. I am the head of External Affairs for Avangrid Renewables. I appreciate the opportunity to provide additional comment on HB 2021.

My company owns and operates more than a thousand megawatts of wind and solar projects in Crook, Gilliam, and Sherman Counties. We now have under construction one wind and two solar projects in Gilliam, Sherman, and Wasco Counties which would raise the existing portfolio by about 50 percent. Taken together, our investment in renewable power generation in Oregon is well over \$2 billion. Oregon has been a good place for us to work, and we look forward to growing even more.

The solar projects we are now building are in partnership with Portland General to meet its green tariff needs. The wind farm under construction will serve customers of Puget Sound Energy in Washington.

We own and operate renewable generation in more than 20 states. Many of our projects are located in one state but serve customers elsewhere. For example:

*Some of our Oregon wind farms send power to northern California.

*Our El Cabo wind farm in New Mexico moves power across the grid to southern California.

*Our South Dakota wind plants provide energy to utilities in Minnesota.

The electrical grid in the western US is interstate in design and function. For decades, Oregonians have benefitted from the exchange of power across the interstate grid to have a more efficient, less expensive electric system.

Most western states have renewable energy standards and some have carbon emission reduction laws. Several states have considered ways to source renewable generation from within their borders but none has, to the best of my knowledge, any requirement on the books:

*The original Colorado RPS, passed by voters in 2004, included a 25% REC bonus for in-state generation as a way to give Colorado an advantage over Wyoming wind.

The law faced a legal challenge in federal court. The Colorado legislature, on advice of counsel, passed a bill that removed the in-state bonus, and the courts upheld the revised Colorado RPS.

*In California, a bill to raise the RPS and require RPS-eligible generation to come from the State was vetoed by Gov. Schwarzenegger, again based on a reading that the in-state requirement would not stand up in court. In 2011, the Legislature and Gov. Brown enacted a 50% RPS law without the in-state requirement.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.