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February 2, 2021

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

RE: Senate Bill 314 – Letter of Support

Dear Chair Beyer,

PacifiCorp is an integrated electric utility serving 1.9 million customers in six states across the Pacific Northwest and Rocky Mountain regions. In Oregon, we operate as Pacific Power and serve approximately 620,000 customers from Astoria to Lakeview.

As the state's largest rural electricity provider, we have an important perspective on electrifying transportation for our customers in non-urban areas of the state. To realize the equitable benefits of transportation electrification, Oregon must accelerate the deployment of the infrastructure to fuel them.

For this reason, Pacific Power supports Senate Bill 314. The bill will support utility investment in electric vehicle infrastructure by providing clear authority for the Oregon Public Utility Commission to allow regulated electric utilities to proactively plan for and invest in infrastructure to serve electric vehicles as efficiently and cost effectively as possible.

As a regulated electric company, Pacific Power is already required to file a biannual transportation electrification plan for acceptance by the Oregon Public Utility Commission. With this bill, our investments in electric vehicle infrastructure must be aligned with our plan, and will be subject to the same public, transparent oversight from the Public Utility Commission as any other utility investment.

We have heard from customers and travelers throughout our service territory that infrastructure to support transportation electrification would make the purchase of an electric vehicle more viable. Increased numbers of electric vehicles on the road would result in further reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, improved air quality, and the potential to increase small business sales as through-travelers stop in towns to fuel their cars and get a bite to eat or peruse local shops while they charge.

Senate Bill 314 is a significant step forward that will allow Oregon to advance equitable statewide transportation electrification and make electric vehicle use and ownership a feasible option for more Oregonians.

Sincerely,

Annette Price