

Submitter: Pat DeLaquil  
On Behalf Of: Metro Climate Action Team  
Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment  
Measure: HB2534

Chair Marsh, Vice Chairs Bobbie Levy and Emerson Levy and members of the House Committee on Climate Energy and Environment.

I support HB 2534 -1. Oregon continues to be leader in responding to the climate crisis with a series of measures and laws to decarbonize electricity generation and decarbonize fuels for transportation buildings and industry. A comprehensive energy strategy will provide the state with tools to look at existing Oregon policies and chart pathways that integrates the many siloed planning processes that already exist withing the state. A comprehensive assessment of the entire energy system will help to clarify several important gaps that currently exist with the utility integrated resource planning process, which deals with electricity and methane gas in separate proceedings with little interaction.

A state energy strategy will help identify provide lawmakers with an integrated look at the most likely least-cost pathways to a clean and beneficial clean energy future, given the expanded view of costs and benefits as defined in the -1 amendment. A state energy strategy also offers an opportunity to look at existing Oregon policies and identify remaining policy gaps.

A state energy strategy will provide key information to policy makers on future decisions such as:

1. How to expand Oregon's renewable energy resources and need for increased electricity transmission while continuing to protect longstanding land use, natural resource and environmental considerations;
2. How to best address the projected large increases in electrical grid capacity as we transition from baseload coal and gas generation to intermittent renewable energy generation (i.e. through ramping up diverse energy storage and demand management systems);
3. How to strategically deploy certain decarbonization strategies, like green electrolytic hydrogen, to the most pressing decarbonization uses such as industrial processes, agricultural production of fertilizers and heavy duty vehicle transportation; and
4. How to build safer and more resilient communities as we transition to clean energy sources.

A state energy strategy also should better position Oregon to compete for and benefit from the billions of dollars in federal investments in clean energy and decarbonization over the next several years.

HB2534-1 asks ODOE to create a state energy strategy that considers various

pathways and suggests optimized ones to meet Oregon's energy and emissions reduction policies, shaped by stakeholder outreach and state energy policies. Therefore, I respectfully urge your support.

Dr. Pat DeLaquil  
Metro Climate Action Team