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Community Renewable Energy Association: *an intergovernmental entity representing local governments and developers of renewable energy facilities in Oregon since 2007.*

House Committee on Climate, Energy, and Environment

February 13, 2023

Testimony of Mike McArthur, Executive Director

Chair Marsh, Vice-Chairs and members of the committee:

The Community Renewable Energy Association (CREA) supports HB 2534 with the [-1 amendment](#). We think developing a statewide energy strategy with stakeholder input is critical to ensure Oregon takes a thoughtful approach towards its future energy use and plans.

CREA supports the development of local, small-scale renewable energy projects, which benefit local governments and help Oregon meet its clean energy goals. ODOE's Biennial Energy report this past year recommended that the state create a plan to inform policies, regulations, incentives and assistance. CREA members agree an energy strategy would be a smart way to move forward and to guide future energy work in Oregon.

With states competing against each other for limited Federal funds, CREA wants to see Oregon best positioned to take advantage of available federal incentives for the

development of clean energy. These investments will bring jobs and financial benefits for local governments operating where these clean energy projects are built.

CREA has another bill, HB 2533, to study and compare avoided cost rates to the price of large-scale renewable energy projects. We think with a small change the information we seek would be a good piece to include in this energy strategy creation, especially because the -1 amendment already includes taking into consideration “economic and employment impacts” and “energy burden and affordability.” We often hear the presumption that small scale projects using avoided cost pricing are more expensive large-scale projects. However, data does not exist to compare the prices being paid over time for large scale projects verses small-scale projects using avoided cost schedules. We think it is important to clarify any cost differentials that exist as we shape Oregon’s statewide energy strategy.

We are grateful to the sponsors of this bill for bringing it forward and being open to discussions around small changes to the bill. Thank you for your consideration. Please support a statewide energy plan and move this bill forward.