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House Committee on Climate, Energy, and Environment

Testimony in favor of HB 2534

Submitted by Laura Tabor, Climate Action Director

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Members of the House Climate, Energy, and Environment Committee :

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB 2534 with the -1 amendment.

The Nature Conservancy in Oregon (TNC) is a science-based, non-partisan organization that works in communities around the state, manages lands and waters in varied ecosystems, and partners with tribes, ranchers, farmers, fishers, timber, and environmental interests on some of the most challenging conservation issues facing people and nature. TNC is committed to helping reach Oregon's clean electricity and climate goals with least impact to nature and communities, and we see proactive energy planning as a critical step in reaching this vision.

Achieving Oregon's 100% clean electricity and ambitious economy-wide greenhouse gas emissions reduction goals is both critical for limiting the effects of climate change and a significant undertaking. Now that Oregon has set nation-leading targets, it's time to show we can also lead in implementation by developing a clear, actionable state energy strategy. Deciding how to make the best use of the many carbon-free energy technologies to build Oregon's clean energy economy is a complex task that deserves intentional study with significant community engagement, and we strongly support prioritizing this effort without delay. Bringing communities and thorough analysis together to set direction for Oregon's clean energy transition will smooth and therefore accelerate the deployment of clean energy infrastructure in the state.

TNC's recent [Power of Place – West study](#) analyzed many possible scenarios for meeting western states' clean electricity and climate goals. We found that the technologies considered and degree of environmental exclusions modeled significantly affected the amount and sensitivity of lands impacted by the clean energy transition. Energy planning that includes land use considerations can dramatically reduce impacts to wildlife and natural areas at minimal additional cost. To maximize community, conservation, and economic benefits, states need to analyze how to best leverage rapid electrification, energy efficiency, renewable energy, and the full array of carbon neutral energy technologies. HB 2534-1 will position the Oregon Department of Energy to build on its significant analysis of individual technologies and undertake this comprehensive effort.

We strongly urge your support of HB 2534 by adopting the -1 amendment and moving this bill forward.