



Testimony on HB 2989 to the House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Chair Marsh, Vice Chairs Levy and Levy, members of the House Climate, Energy and Environment Committee,

My name is Dr. Pat DeLaquil, and I am an energy system modeler and climate policy expert. I live in Gresham, and I am testifying on behalf of the Metro Climate Action Team, which is a community of volunteers working to ensure Oregon is a leader in addressing the climate crisis.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today in support of HB 2989, which directs the Department of Energy and Department of Land Conservation and Development to convene a work group to examine barriers, opportunities and other issues related to renewable energy and transmission project siting in Oregon, and to submit a report on the work group's findings and recommendations to the interim committee of the Legislative Assembly related to energy no later than September 15, 2024.

The membership of the Work Group includes a broad representation of involved stakeholders, and the group will examine the current state and local regulatory framework for renewable energy and transmission project development; identify the existing barriers to meeting Oregon's energy goals, and recommend changes to the current regulatory framework that can help to reduce conflict, mitigate challenges and maximize opportunities for RE project development, while protecting the rights of Tribal governments, environmental justice communities, natural and working lands and fisheries; and wildlife habitat and corridor preservation and restoration.

According to the Oregon Clean Energy Pathways Analysis, at least 20 GW of new clean electricity generating capacity will need to be built over 15-25 years to meet the clean energy goals, including a potential investment in Oregon's offshore wind resource, which is the best on the US west coast. In addition, that Analysis identified a large expansion of transmission connections between Oregon and surrounding states by 2050, specifically 3.4 GW of new transmission capacity to Idaho, which allows Oregon to import electricity from onshore wind resources in Wyoming and Montana, and 6 GW of new transmission capacity to California to facilitate exporting electricity from offshore wind to California and import electricity from solar resources in California and across the rest of the Southwest.

Given these significant future investments and known difficulties with the current permitting process, HB 2989 is needed to help identify and remove barriers, while protecting the rights of those most directly impacted, and creating opportunities for jobs and economic development in these same communities.

The Metro Climate Action Team strongly urges you to support HB 3579 and the forthcoming amendment.

Metro Climate Action Team Steering Committee:

Brett Baylor, Rick Brown, Linda Craig, Pat DeLaquil, Dan Frye, Debby Garman, KB Mercer, Michael Mitton, Rich Peppers, Rand Schenck, Jane Stackhouse, and Catherine Thomasson