

Date: 3/29/23

**Microgrid Resources Coalition –
Oregon HB 3378 testimony house committee 3/29/23**



Good afternoon members of the committee and Oregon legislature. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to testify today. My name is Allie Detrio and I am the senior advisor for the Microgrid Resources Coalition. The MRC is the original nonprofit association representing the national microgrid community, founded in 2013. Our members are microgrid developers, investors, end use customers, public agencies, and community partners. Our mission is to promote microgrids and their benefits through sound policies, regulations, tariffs and other market mechanisms that will enable efficient, cost-effective microgrid project development.

The MRC is proud to support HB 3378 to start the local resiliency planning process and provide funding for counties to develop community energy resilience plans in Oregon. This is a necessary first step towards accelerating the deployment of microgrids widely across communities in Oregon to increase resiliency and increase energy system reliability.

Microgrids are a critical tool for achieving energy resilience in communities, providing energy security and local grid stability. Importantly, they mitigate the risk and impact of power outages that negatively affect all customers, with rural and disadvantaged communities bearing disproportionate burdens when the lights go out.

Microgrids can also provide a wide range of electric grid services, system reliability benefits, clean firm capacity, and other distribution support services to utilities and grid operators that can benefit all ratepayers. Procuring these microgrid services from customers can help reduce systemwide costs and save ratepayers money that would otherwise be spent on larger, more expensive capital energy infrastructure that is now vulnerable and risky in the face of climate change and extreme weather events. Microgrids are a holistic resilience and reliability solution for the state of Oregon.

HB 3378 is an opportunity to jumpstart the planning and development of these important solutions and mitigate future risks and costs to Oregon communities. We urge the Committee to fully fund the bill's proposal so that every county in Oregon can develop a customized energy resilience plan that meets its local individual needs.

Thank you to Representative Marsh and Owens and the legislature for your leadership on this important issue. Thank you to the committee for the opportunity to testify today. We respectfully request your Aye vote on HB 3378.

/s/ Allie Detrio

Allie Detrio
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