

Support for SB 1581-1

We, the undersigned organizations, write to express our support for continuing Oregon's conversation and deliberation on regional electricity markets as proposed in SB 1581-1. The bill asks the state's investor-owned utilities to report annually on actions they have taken on considering joining a regional electricity market.

Oregon is on a path towards a 100% clean grid by 2040. We know from several studies that achieving the last 20% of that mandate is nearly impossible without access to a large regional footprint of diverse clean energy generators. The most cost efficient and effective way to access these diverse generators is through a fully integrated regional market.

Incremental steps to a full regional market are underway in the west with the development of two competing day ahead markets. We have been pleased to see Oregon utilities and our state regulatory agency active in those conversations. However, while day ahead markets bring some benefits to Oregon customers, the greatest benefits will be realized with a single west-wide regional market. Additionally, there are risks to system reliability and meeting clean energy mandates should two competing day ahead markets develop where Oregon's investor owned utilities are in a separate market from Oregon's customer owned utilities and Bonneville Power Administration.

The undersigned believe it is important for the state to stay up to date on the rapidly evolving conversations around day ahead markets and stay engaged on challenges and opportunities to develop a single west-wide regional market. In summary, we believe SB 1581-1 is a reasonable way for the legislature to remain informed and active in an important conversation which has crucial implications for meeting clean energy mandates and maintaining grid reliability.

