

**Testimony to the House Committee on
Climate, Environment, and Natural Resources
re: HB 4015**

February 8, 2024

**Nora Apter, Senior Program Director, Climate
Oregon Environmental Council**

Founded in 1968, the Oregon Environmental Council (OEC) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, membership-based organization. We advance innovative, collaborative and equitable solutions to Oregon's environmental challenges for today and future generations.

Re: Oregon Environmental Council support for HB 4015

Chair Marsh and members of the committee,

Thanks to the 2021 legislature's adoption of the Clean Energy Mandate law, Oregon's electricity grid is on a path to transition to 100% clean, non-emitting sources over the next two decades. If done right, this transition will serve as the clean energy backbone to power our buildings, transportation, and industries, revitalize local economies and create union-wage jobs in the clean energy sector, and improve health, affordability and resilience for communities across the state.

However, in order to realize these benefits, we must tackle pressing barriers head-on, including accelerating the development and deployment of emerging technologies like Battery Energy Storage Systems. By collecting energy from the electric grid or a generating resource, such as a wind or solar plant, and then discharging that energy at a later time to provide electricity or other grid services when needed, BESS has an important role to play in Oregon's transition to 100% clean electricity. However, limited permitting options pose a key barrier to deploying this strategic technology.

HB 4015 will help accelerate the development of BESS by identifying a new permitting pathway for stand-alone batteries at the county and state level, while retaining thorough land use review and scrutiny. In doing so, this bill will help increase the resilience of the electricity grid and communities across the state.

For these reasons, we urge your support for HB 4015.

Sincerely,

Nora Apter

Nora Apter
Senior Program Director, Climate
Oregon Environmental Council