



2/8/2024

Dear Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on HB 4015.

I am an electrical engineer, a long-time Oregon resident, and a member of the Legislative Committee of the Portland chapter of Climate Reality.

Climate Reality PDX strongly supports HB 4015, a bill which defines Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) in state statute, ensures that a separate, additional site certificate is not required for a BESS sited at an existing energy generating facility, and allows standalone BESS projects to be permitted through the Energy Facilities Siting Council (EFSC).

Battery energy storage systems are critical for protecting against blackouts and for increasing the resilience of electrical grids carrying renewable energy. They decrease reliance on long-range energy transmission and can enable a more distributed approach to the supply of electricity. Existing Oregon state law requires permitting of standalone battery energy storage systems to be done at the county level, but many counties do not have BESS ordinances. HB 4015 addresses this issue by providing more flexibility in the permitting process.

Generating significantly more clean energy is not sufficient to address the climate crisis. We must also have the infrastructure to distribute and store the energy produced. Removing roadblocks to building this infrastructure is critical for Oregon to meet its climate goals while providing sufficient and reliable power to Oregon residents and businesses. HB 4015 is an important step in this direction.

Thank you for supporting HB 4015.

Sincerely,

Amanda Duncan, PhD  
Climate Reality, Portland chapter

About The Climate Reality Project

The Climate Reality Project, Portland Chapter is a local, volunteer-led group affiliated with the international non-profit The Climate Reality Project founded by climate leader and former US Vice President Al Gore, whose mission is to catalyze a global solution to the climate crisis by making urgent action a necessity across every sector of society. With a global movement more than 5 million strong and a grassroots network of trained Climate Reality Leader activists, we're spreading the truth about the climate crisis and building popular support for clean energy solutions. For more information, visit the Portland Chapter at <https://climaterealitypdx.com/> and the Climate Reality Project at [www.climaterealityproject.org](http://www.climaterealityproject.org).