



Oregon Citizens' Utility Board

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To: Chair Marsh, Vice-Chairs Levy and Levy, and members of the House Committee on Climate, Energy and Environment

From: Sarah Wochele, Policy Associate, Oregon Citizens' Utility Board (CUB)

Re: Support for HB 4015 - Battery Energy Storage Systems

CUB is a statewide, membership-based 501(c)3 nonprofit consumer advocacy organization developed by citizens' initiative in 1984. CUB represents the interests of Oregon households by advocating for utility regulations and policies that protect your wallet. To date, we have saved Oregonians almost \$10 billion. **We submit this testimony to ask for your support for HB 4015.**

By making it easier to connect battery storage to existing energy projects, HB 4015 will help Oregon serve increasing energy loads into the future. Reliable energy storage is one component of addressing our energy grid needs as Oregon transitions away from fossil fuels. With more battery storage, we can enhance the grid's flexibility and reliability and at a reduced cost for customers by potentially deferring or reducing the need for new grid investments. Importantly, batteries can ensure Oregonians keep their lights on during peak energy use times using the energy generated in lower-demand periods. For example, solar panels with a battery can provide power not just when the sun is out, but can provide power into the evening, when the sun is setting but people are still running air conditioners.

Right now, EFSC does not have statutory authority over standalone batteries, despite having it over related infrastructure such as smaller-scale wind power generating plants or solar photovoltaic power generation facilities. By adding Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) to state statute and clarifying that BESS projects may be permitted at the Energy Facility Siting Council (EFSC), HB 4015 ensures that energy policy in Oregon is evolving with this newer technology that can help us meet our greenhouse gas emissions reductions goals. Moreover, given the integrated purpose of BESS projects for energy reliability, it makes sense to enable BESS siting certification to be integrated into the certification of an existing generation facility.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

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