

January 28th, 2025

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony supporting House Bill 2370. We are Alesandra de la Torre and William Gehrke, representing the NW Energy Coalition.

Our coalition comprises over 100 organizations focused on environmental, civic, and human services, along with progressive utilities and businesses. Our mission is to advocate for clean, equitable, and affordable energy policies across Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and Montana. We envision a Northwest characterized by communities that benefit from a carbon-free energy system, which equitably addresses the needs of individuals while preserving the region's natural resources.

We express our general support for HB 2370 and regularly engage in Oregon Public Utility Proceedings.

Our organization advocates for increased funding for the Oregon Public Utility Commission as a critical investment in the equitable and sustainable management of public utilities. Adequate funding will enable the Commission to effectively oversee utility companies, implement robust regulatory frameworks, and meet the needs of interested parties. Enhanced funding permits the OPUC to be nimbler with its workforce, and improve its responsiveness to emerging challenges, such as the transition to renewable energy and the impacts of climate change on energy infrastructure. These enhancements will empower the Commission to protect public interests while promoting innovation and efficiency within the utilities sector.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Alessandra de la Torre Policy Associate

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