



## **Energy Resilience and Microgrid Public Hearing/Testimony Talking Points:**

Thursday February 6th, 8 - 9:30am

Alex Clingman, Clean Energy Program Manager, SNW

### **House Bill 2065:**

Chair Lively, Vice-Chairs Levy and Gamba, and Members of the Committee, thank you once again for letting this group speak on the matter of energy resilience today. My name is Alex Clingman and I am a Clean Energy Program Manager at Sustainable Northwest. I'm here today to testify in support of HB 2065.

Municipalities, tribes, and other interested parties across Oregon are looking to invest in their futures and build more community-led energy projects, consistent with the state's mandate for 100% clean electricity and requirements for community-scale clean energy projects.

Unfortunately, utility staff maintaining the system and responding to natural disasters are not available to assist end-of-line communities investing in resilience measures. Such staffing shortages can lead to multi-month delays in the process, threatening the financial stability of projects. House Bill 2065 addresses these bottlenecks to:

- Allow communities and project developers to contract with a licensed third party consultant to conduct a required interconnect, engineering, and other studies, subject to public utility reasonable review and approval;
- Work with utilities as technical collaborators to add capacity and expedite the review process; and,
- Require studies or engineering evaluations to receive a professional stamp of approval in order to interconnect a community energy project with the public utility transmission or distribution system.

These levers would enable more community-led energy projects to be constructed in the state of Oregon, increase the pace of project development, leverage private capital, increase resilience and overcome barriers to. Further, adding more distributed-energy resources to the grid enhances its reliability and adds more generating-capacity to meet rising demands.

Once again, I appreciate your time and look forward to working with everyone during this year's legislative session to address these issues. We urge the committee to advance this important legislation