



Energy Resilience and Microgrid Public Hearing/Testimony Talking Points:

Thursday February 6th, 8 - 9:30am

Alex Clingman, Clean Energy Program Manager, SNW

House Bill 2064:

Chair Lively, Vice-Chairs Levy and Gamba, and Members of the Committee, thank you again for letting everyone speak on the matter of energy resilience this morning. 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 2064.

As discussed, Oregon communities are looking to microgrids to better respond to and recover from increasing grid disruptions in the state. As an example, winter storms last year caused the Governor to declare a state of emergency after an ice storm blanketed 12 counties, shutting off the power to over 650,000 residents. Events like this are often devastating to life, property, and the economy in these communities, especially those at the end of the system.

During a grid disruption, it is essential for local communities to be able to assess and manage the energy supply. Because of this, Oregon Department of Energy's 2024 Energy Security Plan explicitly points to microgrids as "an effective resilience method to help supplement - or in some cases, replace - liquid fueled emergency vehicles or backup power generators"

House Bill 2064 provides guidance on grid disconnection processes to put more power in the hands of local emergency management teams to better assess the needs of their community during an outage. Specifically, it proposes to:

1. Enable communities to provide power to critical infrastructure including schools, hospitals, communications, and utility services during a grid disruption;
2. Enhance energy resilience protocols to allow microgrids to operate independently or in coordination with the grid during both normal and emergency conditions;
3. Designate microgrid zones based on geographical boundaries and existing electric services infrastructure; and,
4. Shed light on costs associated with designing, constructing, and maintaining a microgrid.

These levers have the ability to significantly bolster the energy independence, security, and resilience of Oregon communities. We urge the committee to advance this important legislation. Thank you for your time and I welcome further conversation.