



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

Thursday February 6th, 8 - 9:30am

Alex Clingman, Clean Energy Program Manager, SNW

### **House Bill 2066:**

Chair Lively, Vice-Chairs Levy and Gamba, and Members of the Committee, good morning and thank you for inviting me to speak today in support of energy resilience and microgrid strategies for Oregon.

My name is Alex Clingman and I am the Clean Energy Program Manager for Sustainable Northwest. I'm here today to testify in support of HB 2066. In addition to my testimony, I urge you to refer to an informational article and a sign on letter of 20 partner signatories submitted online. My organization has worked for over three decades to forge solutions that work for local communities, economies, and environments, centering the needs of Oregon's rural communities in all aspects of our work. As part of this focus, our Making Energy Work Coalition, which consists of over 550 participants from municipalities, farmers, community-based organizations, developers, and state agencies from across the region, continues to call for more pathways to bolster their energy independence, resilience, and disaster preparedness. This is a direct result of increasing grid disruptions impacting our urban, suburban, and rural communities, as wildfire, extreme weather, flooding, and earthquakes negatively impact residents, ratepayers, and businesses with more frequent and prolonged power outages.

To respond to these threats and risks, and to increase local energy resilience and certainty, advocates from across the state are calling for enhanced pathways to assess, plan, and operate microgrids, or interconnected systems of loads and energy resources, in their communities. Despite this, Oregon scored in the lower half of the nation last year based on its microgrid preparedness based on existing policy, regulation, and market structure. This lack of clarity, confidence, and market certainty to own, operate, and deploy the benefits of these systems are stifling the ability of the state to pursue energy resilience solutions.

House Bill 2066 was drafted in direct response to the needs of community partners and clean energy project developers across the state. It strives to:

1. Direct the Oregon Public Utilities Commission to conduct an investigation to determine the benefits and constraints of microgrid development;
2. Establish clarity around who can own and operate community-led microgrids with forward-thinking interconnection standards and requirements; and,
3. Create compensatory mechanisms that capture the true value of microgrids and their ability to make our grid more reliable.

I appreciate the opportunity to continue this conversation in collaboration with the legislature, utilities, community members, and other advocates as we work for a future where Oregon communities can better respond to and recover from grid disruptions. Thank you for your consideration, and we urge you to pass this essential legislation.