



February 6th, 2024

House Committee on Climate, Energy, and Environment
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court St. NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Chair Lively, Vice-chairs Gamba and Levy and members of the Committee,

On behalf of The Environmental Center I am writing in strong support of the three micromobility bills HB 2064, HB 2065, and HB 2066, which will provide guidance to enhance the role of microgrids in improving Oregon's energy resilience.

Oregon communities are not only looking at microgrids to address weather related grid disruptions, but also to bolster our emergency response to wildfire and the Cascadia Earthquake.

A strong example of how microgrids can enhance resilience is the North Unit Irrigation District (NUID) project in Redmond. This innovative initiative integrates a hydropower facility, solar energy array, and battery storage systems to stabilize power supply and support emergency operations. Designed with islanding capability, the microgrid will continue operating during grid outages while also interconnecting with the local utility for efficient energy distribution. The project will serve critical facilities some of which are identified as key infrastructure in response to a Cascadia Subduction Zone Earthquake, including the Redmond Airport, the National Guard, the City and County of Redmond, and the U.S. Forest Service. By leveraging canal flows for hydropower and supplementing it with solar and battery storage, NUID is a model for how microgrids can enhance energy security and sustainability in Oregon.

By advancing this legislation, Oregon can take a proactive approach to energy security, ensuring that communities have the tools they need to keep essential services running during outages. The NUID project demonstrates the immense value of microgrids, and these three house bills will help enable similar projects statewide. I urge the committee to support this important legislation and would welcome further discussion.

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