



February 9, 2025

To: Senator Lew Frederick, Co-Chair, Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee On Natural Resources
Representative Emerson Levy, Co- Chair, Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee On Natural Resources
Members of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee On Natural Resources

From: Emily Griffith, Oregon Policy Manager, Renewable Northwest

Re: Support for SB 5518: Department of Energy Budget

Co-Chair Frederick, Co-Chair Levy, and Members of the Committee,

Renewable Northwest (“RNW”) is a regional, non-profit renewable energy advocacy organization based here in Oregon, dedicated to decarbonizing the region by accelerating the transition to renewable electricity. Our members include renewable energy developers and businesses, environmental organizations, and consumer groups. Renewable Northwest is pleased to support SB 5518, the Department of Energy Budget.

The Oregon Department of Energy (“ODOE”) is essential to ensuring Oregonians have access to a “safe, equitable, clean, and sustainable future.”¹ ODOE orchestrates and implements critical programs and solutions to establish a resilient energy system. It is critical that ODOE is sufficiently resourced during the state’s path to achieving Oregon’s clean energy mandate (HB2021). In recent years, the Oregon Legislature has charged ODOE with many tasks² regarding the energy needs of the state. ODOE is a leader among other state’s energy agencies, working hard to find balance and solutions that support reaching our clean energy goals and minimize impacts to current and future generations.

RNW is pleased to see that the Governor’s Recommended Budget (“GRB”) for ODOE includes full support for the Current Service Level and investment in the Community Renewable Energy Project Grants. ODOE is critical not only to statewide energy planning efforts, but also to the everyday energy consumer. ODOE provides incentives for adoption of clean energy systems

¹ [Oregon Department of Energy Vision, Mission, and Values](#)

² HB 3630: State Energy Strategy; Community Navigator Program; County Resilience Planning Grants; Home Energy Programs and a One-Stop Shop; Energy Efficiency – Heat Pumps, Education, and Training; Building Performance Standard; State Building Efficiency; Climate Solutions on Natural and Working Lands; Resilience Hubs; and more.

and technologies. Given the uncertainty of federal support and incentives, it is critical that ODOE remains sufficiently resourced by the state.

We fully support ODOE's budget request so that the agency will be sufficiently resourced to carry out its important work. As noted above, ODOE plays an important role in advancing solutions to shape an equitable energy transition. A well-resourced agency is essential to continuing this work and continue progress towards grid decarbonization in a way that considers the complicated pressures on Oregon values.

Thank you for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Emily Griffith", with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Emily Griffith
Oregon Policy Manager
Renewable Northwest