

Submitter: Benjamin Roche
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3247

Testimony in Support of Oregon House Bill 3247

House Committee on Climate, Energy, and Environment

Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in strong support of House Bill 3247, which ensures that Oregon maintains a reliable and sufficient power supply by requiring electric utilities to secure replacement energy sources before retiring existing power plants. Given the findings of the Pacific Northwest Power Supply Adequacy Assessment for 2027, this bill is essential to protect against energy shortages and maintain grid reliability.

The Need for Reliable Power in Oregon

According to the 2023 Northwest Power and Conservation Council Adequacy Assessment, (https://www.nwcouncil.org/fs/18158/2023-1_adequacyassessment.pdf) Oregon and the Pacific Northwest face increasing risks of power shortages, particularly in the winter months.

The study highlights that:

- > Oregon's power grid is not adequate without significant new energy resources.
- > Early retirement of power plants without replacements leads to a higher risk of electricity shortfalls, particularly during peak demand periods.
- > Electrification policies, including the transition to electric vehicles and home heating, are driving increased demand, requiring more—not fewer—power generation resources.

HB 3247: A Necessary Safeguard for Oregon's Energy Future

This bill ensures that no power plant providing reliable, dispatchable electricity can be shut down unless there is a replacement source with equal or greater reliability. Oregon has already experienced grid stress events due to increased reliance on intermittent renewables, without sufficient baseload power to balance fluctuations.

By passing HB 3247, we can:

- > Prevent rolling blackouts and ensure energy security for Oregon residents.
- > Support economic stability, as power shortages negatively impact businesses, agriculture, and industries.
- > Ensure a responsible energy transition, balancing renewable energy growth with

reliable and proven power generation.

In Conclusion

Oregon cannot afford to lose more dispatchable energy resources without a plan to replace them. The risk of power shortages and price volatility is too great. I urge this committee to support HB 3247 to safeguard Oregon's energy future and ensure that we do not eliminate power plants without replacing their capacity.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Ben Roche
Albany, OR