To House Committee on Climate, Energy and the Environment
Support for HB 3247 – Replacement of Dispatchable Generation

March 6, 2025

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

My name is Dr. Pat DeLaquil. I am an energy system modeler and climate policy analyst, and I organize with MCAT (Mobilizing Climate Action Together), a community of volunteers working on advancing a healthy climate and a green economy for future generations.

I am testifying today in opposition to HB 3247, which would require an electric company to first acquire a replacement resource of reliable or dispatchable electricity prior to retiring an electric power generating facility that provides reliable or dispatchable electricity.

I am a nuclear engineer that started working full time on renewables in 1980, and have seen their costs drop from 100 times the cost of grid electricity to currently the lowest cost sources of new large-scale electricity generation in the US and around the world. This is fortunate for us, as our state continues its journey to clean energy future, because as we expand to meet growing demand from data centers and vehicle electrification, we are adding the lowest cost new capacity to meet that demand. However, as we all know, solar and wind have variable output that, while largely predictable cannot be changed to meet demand at all times. At the same, the electricity network has also slowly but steadily shifted from a rigid centralized generation model to one that has increasing amounts of distributed generation and storage throughout the system.

Presumably, this bill is intended to help maintain the reliability of our electricity supply network. However, this bill's focus on plant-by-plant replacement is based in an incorrect premise regarding the foundation of reliability in our interconnected electricity network. While individual plants contribute to reliability, what we want as a society is *system reliability*, which is a complicated product of the availability of all supply, storage and demand response measures on the grid.

Providing reliable electricity supply can be considered at the grid level and at the customer level. At the grid level, there are regional markets that expand and facilitate access to more electricity supply options, and here is Oregon, there is enough existing gas-fired generation, which is currently expected to be exported, which will help to ensure system reliability. At the customer level, distributed generation and storage along with micro-grid techniques can provided not just added reliability, but resilience in the face of natural disasters. These are very technical issues that our electric utilities are already grappling with as we move to clean up our electricity supply and create more reliability and resilience.

I urge you to oppose HB 3247. The bill seeks to solve a problem that doesn't currently exist using a solution that ignores the changing nature of our electric network.

Thank you for listening to my comments.

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