



# The Climate Reality Project<sup>®</sup>

## PORTLAND CHAPTER

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

Climate Reality Project Portland Chapter is an organization that advocates for a Just Transition to Clean Energy, climate justice, and public health, and recognizes the need for resiliency in the face of extreme weather and other challenges to our power supply. We oppose HB 3247.

HB 3247 could unintentionally– and unnecessarily– jeopardize grid reliability and affordability. It could also have serious environmental justice, public health, and public safety repercussions by favoring fossil fuel and possibly nuclear energy.

Aging power plants require frequent repairs that can lead to both unintended power outages and increased costs for ratepayers. Meanwhile, the development and operation of clean energy production can bring new jobs and provide employment opportunities for the future while increasing our state's resiliency.

Hydropower is likely to become increasingly variable with climate change, and new gas, coal, or nuclear plants are likely more expensive over their lifetimes than solar and wind plus storage, according to the [2024 Lazard LCOE report](#).

Yet HB 3247 appears to disqualify combinations of cost-effective distributed energy resources – including solar, wind, storage, demand response, and more– which in combination are extremely reliable and dispatchable– simply because their reliability comes from a combination of multiple sources.

A combination of resources can be more reliable than a single power plant. When one wind turbine, one solar panel, or one battery malfunctions or goes down for maintenance, the rest of the power sources continue to function. In addition, during extreme weather events such as wildfires, where a centralized system might have to shut down power to a whole region, distributed power can keep the lights on, businesses running, and relief services supported everywhere there isn't immediate danger.

The Oregon Public Utilities Commission already rigorously assesses resource adequacy and reliability, with the mission of ensuring that “Oregonians have access to safe, reliable and fairly

priced utility services that advance state policy and promote the public interest.” Please let them fulfill their mission. Do not pass HB 3247 as written.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Helena Birecki

Interim Chair, Climate Reality Project Portland Chapter

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About The Climate Reality Project Portland Chapter

The Climate Reality Project (CRP) Portland Chapter is a local, volunteer-led chapter of The Climate Reality Project, an international nonprofit of 5 million members led by climate leader and former US Vice President Al Gore, whose mission is to catalyze global solutions to the climate crisis. Our legislative committee bases its advocacy on CRP's 5 pillars: a just transition to clean energy, zero carbon transportation, climate justice, green communities, and a fair, representative democracy. [climaterealitypdx.com/](http://climaterealitypdx.com/), [www.climaterealityproject.org](http://www.climaterealityproject.org)