



11 March 2025

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

Subject: HB 3609 - Support

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

Mobilizing Climate Action Together (MCAT) is a group of experienced volunteer affiliated with the Oregon League of Conservation Voters. We urge the Committee to support HB 3609 to help facilitate the adoption of distributed power plants that can provide significant benefits to our power grid, people and climate.

Most distributed power plants (DPPs) are small-scale energy generation and storage technologies located near the point of electricity use. These systems are usually deployed on the consumer side of the meter and typically include features such as rooftop solar panels, home battery storage, smart thermostats and even bidirectional charging of electric vehicles. Generally, DPPs help balance electricity supply and demand by reducing peak loads, shifting consumption, and providing energy at desired times. A key aspect of DPPs is that they can be coordinated by grid operators to effectively function as a single generating source. This allows them to provide additional grid services such as peak shaving, reserves, and demand response. New DPPs can be planned and deployed in as little as six to 12 months. Over 500 DPPs are already online in the U.S.

The benefits of DPPs arise from unique attributes that they bring to the electric grid. DPPs promote energy independence and increased operational resilience by providing backup power during grid outages - thus reducing reliance on large, centralized power plants. DPPs can also provide clean energy to the grid during peak periods or store it for later use when it's not needed. This helps utilities increase hosting capacity, thereby accelerating the integration of renewables into the grid. Further, DPPs allow consumers to participate in demand response programs and earn revenue while supporting grid stability. Finally, DPPs offer a vehicle to reduce both consumer and overall grid costs. DPPs reduce costs for consumers by allowing them to generate their own low cost electricity, and they lower costs for utilities and transmission operators by reducing the need for long transmission lines and expensive infrastructure upgrades.

The distributed energy resources (DERs) that together make up DPPs also include resources that are on the utility side (front) of the meter, such as utility-scale solar parks, wind farms, and large energy storage systems. These larger-scale resources supply power to multiple customers. While behind-the-meter resources dominate residential and small commercial installations, the systems in front of the meter play a critical role in grid stability and large-scale energy distribution. Together, all these distributed energy resources achieve a more sustainable, cost-effective, and resilient energy system that meets diverse consumer needs while addressing climate goals.

HB 3609 requires electric companies to develop distributed power plant programs that offer their customers a standard offer, open-access tariff for grid services that are provided by resources located behind the meter. Eligible services include: (a) system-wide peak load reduction; (b) local peak demand reduction; (c) provision of zero emission electricity to meet peak demand; (d) avoidance or deferral of transmission or distribution upgrades or capacity expansion and other location-specific grid services; such as voltage support and emergency services. A customer may enroll directly or through an aggregator in the electric company's distributed power plant program.

We urge you to support HB 3609. Distributed power plants are off-the-shelf technologies that provide significant grid benefits, while also saving energy costs for Oregon families and small businesses. Importantly, these behind-the-meter resources will help Oregon meet its clean energy policy goals while enabling greater energy resilience and self-sufficiency. Finally, the cost savings from reduced investments in transmission and distribution system upgrades will accrue to all ratepayers.

Thank you.

Michael Mitton, Pat DeLaquil and John Perona
On behalf of: Mobilizing Climate Action Together (MCAT)

MCAT Steering Committee

Brett Baylor, Rick Brown, Pat DeLaquil, Dan Frye, Debby Garman, Michael Mitton, Rich Peppers, John Perona, Rand Schenck, Joe Stenger and Catherine Thomasson