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March 13, 2025

House Committee on Economic Development, Small Business and Trade
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court St. NE
Salem Oregon 97301

RE: Support for HB 3246

Dear Chair Nguyen, Vice-Chairs Diehl and Isadore, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Erin Childs, and I serve as the Executive Director of the Renewable Hydrogen Alliance (RHA). RHA is a regional non-profit trade association enabling access to safe, affordable, and renewable hydrogen for communities across the Pacific Northwest. Our 80+ members represent the full value chain of the hydrogen ecosystem – hydrogen technology and service providers, equipment manufacturers, project developers, public transit agencies, labor unions, utilities, and many others with an interest in the clean and renewable hydrogen sector. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 3246 on behalf of RHA and its members.

Industrial symbiosis represents an important opportunity to maximize the potential benefits of the hydrogen economy. Co-location of hydrogen facilities are essential for some industrial processes, and for other applications, can reduce hydrogen costs and increase potential adoption. Further, enabling colocation of hydrogen production with either production or end use facilities can help to optimize the use of existing energy infrastructure.

Oregon and Washington's clean energy leadership has helped to secure over $5 billion of committed public and private funding to launch Oregon's nascent renewable and electrolytic hydrogen industry. Continued investment in state policy, technology pilots, and sustainable business models will help Oregon to make the most of this historic investment.

RHA offers these further considerations of hydrogen's role in Oregon's clean industrial sector:

Clean and renewable hydrogen are essential for Oregon's energy transition.

Low carbon-intensity hydrogen is an essential part of Oregon's transition to a clean energy economy. Hydrogen will serve as a transportation fuel for long-route and heavy-duty vehicles; an input for sustainable fuels and locally produced fertilizer; and a critical component of resilient, reliable, efficient energy systems. Recent analysis by Washington Department of Commerce estimates that 27% of the state's total energy use will be met by hydrogen. The

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Oregon Department of Energy's State Energy Strategy interim findings have already shown that hydrogen will play a critical role in clean fuels supply and electric sector decarbonization.

Hydrogen is an essential fuel and feedstock for Oregon's industrial sector

Hydrogen is a flexible and multi-purpose resource that can be used as either a clean fuel, or as a feedstock for industrial processes. Hydrogen is used today as a direct input into industrial processes, including fertilizer production, synthetic fuels refining, and semiconductor manufacturing.

Hydrogen is expected to see significant opportunity for industrial symbiosis when used for the production of synthetic fuels, including sustainable aviation fuel, methanol, ammonia, and renewable diesel, all of which require the inclusion of other clean and low carbon molecules to support a low-carbon final product. Many synthetic fuels production processes require biogenic carbon as an input to achieve target carbon intensity (CI) scores from the EU and US. For many developers, colocation of biogenic carbon, hydrogen, and other organic inputs is a critical component to project viability and an affordable end product.

Access to energy infrastructure is essential for hydrogen

Hydrogen production is energy intensive and requires access to significant amounts of low-cost energy to support the scale required for industrial activities. Oregon will benefit from proactive efforts to identify locations that have energy and zoning suitability for hydrogen industrial applications.

Thank you for your consideration,

Erin Childs

Erin Childs
Executive Director
Renewable Hydrogen Alliance

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