



To Senate Committee on Climate, Energy and the Environment Opposition to SB 634 – Renewable Credits to Existing Hydropower

March 17, 2025

Chair Sollman, Vice-chair Brock Smith and members of the committee,

My name is Dr. Pat DeLaquil, and I am testifying today in opposition to SB 634. 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 have worked in the renewable energy field since 1980, and was involved when the initial renewable portfolio standard (or RPS) laws were passed - as a forward-looking policy to help build a market for **new clean energy** power plants, which were expensive but likely to dramatically reduce in cost as their manufacturing capacity increased. And what looked to many at the time, as a foolish prediction, is now a reality. Existing hydropower facilities were exempted from the list of eligible renewable energy technologies for obvious reasons. They don't represent new renewable energy capacity. SB 634 would eliminate that distinction and allow the electric utilities in Oregon to claim credit against the state's RPS law. This bill has nothing to do with the merits of existing hydropower plants. Removing the RPS requirement that only new power projects count, would allow the electric utilities to fill their RPS requirements without further investment, essentially gutting the fundamental purpose of the law. This would dramatically slow the investment in all new clean energy resources and jeopardize the state's progress towards meeting its HB 2021 targets.

We are already seeing slower progress towards the HB 2021 goals, with PGE's 2023 RFP yielded 85 MW of the 753 MW of non-emitting resources needed to meet 2025-2028 targets, and PacifiCorp postponing their RFP entirely.

SB 634 would gut the RPS law, especially in the next 5 years when the RPS target is more binding on new clean energy requirement period to the first HB 2021 target in 2030.

SB 634 would also damage the growing clean energy industry in Oregon, and drive its development out of the state.

I urge you to reject SB 634

Dr. Pat DeLaquil
Gresham, OR

