

## 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,

I am providing this follow-up to my testimony in response to the assertion made at the hearing that Oregon was alone in excluding existing hydropower from its RPS.

That assertion is incorrect, as a simple Google query shows:

[Most states do not allow existing hydropower to qualify for Renewable Portfolio Standards \(RPS\)](#)<sup>14</sup>.

The response goes on to say that currently 37 states, including the District of Columbia, allow some form of hydropower in their RPS programs. However, each state treats hydropower in its own way. Efficiency improvements at existing hydropower facilities are included in Oregon and most other states. Most states also allow new hydropower, but some states restrict the size or technology that qualifies.

Another article notes that [some states, which are moving to a 100% RPS, are recognizing the need to reconsider hydropower's RPS eligibility to ensure that existing hydro projects remain online](#)<sup>3</sup>. However, Oregon's clean energy law (HB 2021) fully recognizes existing hydropower as qualifying clean power. Therefore, the proposed change to Oregon's RPS law is NOT needed.

For these and the reasons I have previously submitted, I urge you to reject SB 634

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