

Submitter: Shauna McKain-Storey

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB634

SB 634 would undermine the original intent of the Renewable Portfolio Standard to encourage the procurement of new, renewable energy generating resources, and possibly also existing Renewable Energy Credits programs. The RPS was intentionally designed to not include hydroelectric power as it was meant to incentivize the procurement of new, renewable energy resources. By including hydro resources in RPS, it also would imply that hydro resources would generate RECs, which they historically do not. There is currently no need to expand the RPS program to include other generating resources. Another reason that I oppose SB 634 is the fact that hydroelectric power generation facilities have become increasingly problematic. Their usefulness is increasingly under threat due to drought, which much of Oregon has been experiencing for 20-plus years. Also, dam infrastructure is extremely expensive to build and maintain; many U.S. dams are deteriorating. And using precious water resources to produce power seems ill-advised when farmers, ranchers, some small towns and other Oregonians face water shortages. They also do harm to ecosystems that support healthy salmon and other fish by diverting natural streams and rivers. For all of these reasons, I ask that you oppose this bill. Thank you.