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On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB634

I oppose SB 63 as it would allow old hydroelectric dams, such as those on the Columbia River, that have had devastating impacts on fisheries to count as “renewable”.

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This bill would gut the provisions regarding protected areas.

Rather than try to weaken RPS standards, Oregon should take this opportunity to strengthen them. At

the time Oregon enacted its RPS standards, standards in Washington, Montana and California,

prohibited hydropower from new dams or diversions from being counted as renewable under their RPS

programs, as it is recognized that doing such provides an incentive to build new dams and diversions. In

contrast, Oregon RPS standards allow new dams, except in some protected areas, to be counted in meeting RPS.

This bill not only doesn't address current problems with Oregon's RPS allowances with regards to hydropower, but would set things backwards.