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March 19, 2025

Senate Committee on Energy and the Environment

Subject: Opposition to SB 634

Dear Members of the Committee -

On behalf of the thousands of members and supporters of Tualatin Riverkeepers, which works to protect and restore the Tualatin River watershed. We encourage you to oppose SB 634, which would effectively allow any hydroelectric project – no matter how ecologically or socially harmful – to qualify as renewable under Oregon’s Renewable Energy Portfolio.

Oregon is home to many older hydroelectric dams that have had devastating impacts on our state’s salmonids. Current law reasonably allows for hydroelectric dams to count toward the state’s renewable energy portfolio if they have undergone post-1995 efficiency upgrades or if they are certified as low impact. SB 634 would allow all hydro electric dams, no matter their negative impact, to count toward the state’s renewable portfolio.

If SB 634 becomes law, it would incentivize the construction of harmful new dams, at a time when our state continues to build our renewable energy portfolio while removing dams and restoring historic fish runs. Oregon has the opportunity to be a national leader in encouraging development of clean, renewable energy while continuing to protect our state’s incredible natural resources. SB 364 would represent a step backwards for the protection of our state’s rivers and wildlife.

Tualatin Riverkeepers and our members strongly oppose the passage of Senate Bill 634.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Glenn Fee", written in a cursive style.

Glenn Fee
Executive Director