

Submitter: Scott R Bowler

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB634

As an advocate for salmon and wild river systems, as well as for renewable energy, this bill is bad on both of those counts. Old style hydro-power is not renewable energy. This is simply an attempt to qualify fish-killing and river-destroying dams as renewable energy, and it is not! Instead it is a destructive energy production method. Agreed that it does not add carbon dioxide to the atmosphere, but large scale hydro, such as we have on the Columbia River system is no friend to the environment. The dams increase sedimentation behind themselves, stagnate sections of the river, warm the waters so that cool-water anadromous salmonids can't survive, and severely disrupt flows and habitats far beyond what would be considered part of the natural order. The Hydro power that we get from those big dams is in some ways clean(er) energy, but in many ways, it is not renewable energy due to the destruction of natural systems that it causes. Thus, I just cannot support this bill - and I urge you to not let it move forward. Thank you.