



To: Senate Committee on Energy and the Environment
Subject: Opposition to SB 634

March 19, 2025

Dear Chair and members of the committee,

Rogue Riverkeeper is a program of the Klamath-Siskiyou Wildlands Center (KS Wild) based in Ashland, Oregon and advocates for the wildlands, biodiversity, and clean water of southwest Oregon and northwest California. We represent approximately 10,000 members and supporters across Oregon and beyond.

We urge the committee to vote no on 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. Like many other rivers in Oregon, the Rogue basin has several older hydroelectric projects. Millions of dollars and years of work have gone into enhancing aquatic habitat and water quality in the Rogue and other rivers. Let’s not throw that away.

We do not support SB 634 that would allow all hydro electric dams, no matter their negative impact, to count toward the state’s renewable portfolio. The 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. Oregon should not incentivize the construction of harmful new dams by the passage of SB 634, at a time when our state continues to work hard and invest in water quality and fish habitat improvement. We need to continue building our renewable energy portfolio as well as removing dams and protecting and enhancing fish habitat. SB 364 would represent a step backwards for the protection of our state’s rivers and wildlife. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Frances Oyung
Program Manager
Rogue Riverkeeper