



Testimony of Save Our wild Salmon Coalition on SB 634

Senate Committee on Energy and the Environment

March 19, 2025

Dear Chair Sollman, Vice Chair Smith, and members of the Senate Committee on Energy and Environment,

Thank you for the opportunity to offer written testimony on SB 634. **Save Our wild Salmon Coalition strongly opposes SB 634. The proposal threatens Oregon’s just energy transition and codifies the harmful impacts hydropower poses on salmon and steelhead populations – a keystone species that delivers immense benefits to communities and ecosystems across Oregon.** Save Our wild Salmon (SOS) is a coalition of northwest and national conservation organizations, recreational and commercial fishing associations, clean energy and orca advocates, businesses, and individuals committed to protecting and restoring abundant, self-sustaining fishable populations of salmon and steelhead to the Columbia-Snake River Basin for the benefit of people and ecosystems.

If passed, SB 634 would allow all hydropower to be used to meet Oregon’s Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard (RPS). This is highly concerning because outdated hydroelectric dams, such as those on the lower Snake River, would count as “renewable.” The stagnant and increasingly hot reservoirs created by the hydro dams have decimated Pacific salmon and steelhead populations for decades and directly violate U.S. Government treaties with many Northwest Tribes.

Oregon has the opportunity to be a leader in clean energy – yet SB 634 would set back RPS standards. Changes to the RPS to support aging hydropower would counteract the opportunity for Oregon to incentivize truly renewable energy projects.

Federal, state, local and private interests have spent millions upon millions of dollars towards river restoration in Oregon. Please pave the way for a just and resilience energy future in Oregon by not incentivizing projects, like hydropower, that put Oregon’s rivers, fisheries and the many communities and economies that depend upon them at risk. **We urge you to vote no on SB 634.**

Contact: Abby Dalke, Save Our wild Salmon, abby@wildsalmon.org, 503-477-0446