



ASSOCIATION OF NORTHWEST STEELHEADERS
P.O. Box 55400 Portland, OR. 97238
office@anws.org | (503) 653-4176

March 19, 2025

Senate Committee on Energy and Environment
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Members of the Senate Committee on Energy and Environment,

The Association of Northwest Steelheaders (ANWS) was founded in 1960 and is one of the oldest and most cherished conservation and sport fishing advocacy organizations in the Pacific Northwest. We are anglers dedicated to enhancing and protecting fish and their habitats for today and tomorrow. Our programs include youth conservation education, angler education, protecting public access to waterways, and advocating for fish. Northwest Steelheaders represent PNW residents who value strong runs of salmon and steelhead, healthy waterways, and sport fishing.

The Association of Northwest Steelheaders opposes SB 634. This bill would alter Oregon's long-held Renewable Portfolio Standards(RPS) in ways that would negatively impact wildlife and river health. As an organization dedicated to the preservation and protection of fish and their habitats, we are deeply concerned about the harmful impacts that this policy change would have on salmon populations.

SB 634 would permit older hydroelectric dams, such as those on the Columbia River, which have had devastating impacts on fisheries to count as "renewable". Under current law, old hydroelectric dams can count towards Oregon's RPS but only if the electricity is attributable to efficiency upgrades implemented after 1995 or if the energy generation is certified as low impact hydro. SB 634 would discourage the innovation that our RPS standards sought to foster through diversifying the renewable energy resources that power our state. Current RPS standards allow hydroelectric generation from new dams and diversion to count towards RPS, but only outside of protected areas. This bill would remove those provisions and leave previously protected areas vulnerable.

The establishment of the specific provision requiring low impact hydropower in the RPS made a very clear statement that migratory fish species have great value culturally, economically, and environmentally in our region.

Thank you for your time and consideration of our concerns. We are hopeful that you will prioritize the health and sustainability of Oregon's rivers, salmon populations, and the communities that rely on them.

Sincerely,

Jeff Hernandez, President
Association of Northwest Steelheaders