



NW Energy Coalition
for a clean and affordable energy future

**Testimony in Opposition
SB 634
Jeff Bissonnette
representing NW Energy Coalition
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Members of the Senate Energy and Environment Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on SB 634, a bill that would allow all hydropower to count towards compliance with the state's renewable energy standards. NWECA opposes the bill as it would weaken the policy framework to move to a cleaner energy framework.

When Oregon's renewable energy standard was first adopted in 2007 and then updated in 2016, the policy was intended to spur significant investment in new renewable resources. While no one disputes that hydropower is a clean, renewable resource – it is actually listed in the policy's definition of clean energy – the purpose of the renewable energy standard was to ensure new renewable resources came online rather than taking credit for investments made many years ago while we needed to build new resources for a modern energy system. While hydropower is an essential element in that energy system, it is not sufficient to ensure the clean energy system we require.

Subsequent legislation adopted after the passage of the renewable energy standard focuses on emissions and requires the state's largest investor-owned utilities to reduce their emissions 100% by 2040. This policy puts all resources on an equal footing – new generation like wind and solar, battery storage, energy efficiency, and even hydropower – all of which are non-emitting resources.

However, for that emissions-based policy to work, we need to maintain the initial base of the renewable energy standard to drive new investment in renewable generation resources. Including all hydropower in the renewable energy standard runs counter to that needed piece of the renewable energy framework. Instead, all hydropower should be considered in its rightful place, as part of the emissions-reduction policy, recognizing its part in an emissions-free energy system.

We believe that, at best, SB 634 is unnecessary because new investment in hydropower is already considered for compliance with the renewable energy standard while all hydropower, including historical investments are considered within the emissions-free energy policy. At worst, however, SB 634 could undo a carefully balanced policy framework and slow down the development of additional new renewable resources and endanger the ability of the state to meet its overall clean energy goals.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify in opposition to SB 634. We urge you to reject the bill and not send it further in the legislation process.