

Submitter: Eva Hauksdottir-Neill  
On Behalf Of: Whitman College  
Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB634

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

The Low Impact Hydropower Institute (LIHI) appreciates the opportunity to provide written testimony on SB 634: Relating to the use of hydroelectric energy to comply with a

renewable portfolio standard; declaring an emergency (SB 634). LIHI opposes the changes

proposed by SB 634 regarding hydropower's eligibility in the Oregon Renewable Portfolio

Standard (RPS) since these changes would undermine public interest and safety, impair

environmental protection, and threaten the integrity of the Renewable Energy Credit (REC) market.

Oregon's RPS program provides critical incentives for supporting renewable energy projects. Any project that qualifies for the RPS should ultimately deliver benefits to the public;

projects should only be paid more for doing more for public safety and environmental stewardship. Consequently, as the legislature contemplates potential changes to the RPS to

support hydropower, it will remain critical to retain the current RPS hydropower eligibility

requirements that protect local communities and the region's fragile ecosystem rather than

remove them in their entirety as envisioned under SB 634. Simply put, the proposed changes to

hydropower eligibility requirements under SB 634 should not be supported.

Thank you to the Senate Committee on Energy and Environment for considering LIHI's

testimony. LIHI is eager to assist in developing policy alternatives to support hydropower

projects that put people and the environment first.

Sincerely, Eva Hauksdottir-Neill