

Testimony to the Senate Committee on Energy and Environment**March 17, 2025****Jay Ward, Interim Director of Programs
Oregon Environmental Council**

Founded in 1968, the Oregon Environmental Council (OEC) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, membership-based organization. We advance innovative, collaborative and equitable solutions to Oregon's environmental challenges for today and future generations.

Re: Oregon Environmental Council support for SB 634

Dear Chair Sollman, Vice-Chair Brock Smith, members of the committee:

On behalf of Oregon Environmental Council and our thousands of members across the state, I write in strong opposition to Senate Bill 634 (SB 634).

Oregon has a long and proud record of enacting visionary energy policies that have served Oregonians well. Senate Bill 838 the bipartisan Renewable Portfolio Standard, crafted in 2007 is one such law. Recognizing the need for **additional** renewable energy generation, your predecessors and colleagues came together to pass SB 838 establishing binding goals and schedules by which investor-owned utilities must provide low-cost renewable electricity to their customers. The metric SB 838 utilized to ensure compliance was the Renewable Energy Certificate (REC).

While an important and renewable resource, since it does not contribute to the construction or acquisition of new, **additional** resource, electricity generated from pre-1995 hydroelectric facilities was not included in the list of allowable, qualifying technologies (unless certified as low impact). This exclusion recognized that many hydroelectric facilities, which provide renewable, emission-free electricity, also negatively impact other important fish, wildlife and cultural resources and that utilities should be required to acquire electricity resources that are less harmful to Oregon's environment. Since 2007, Oregon has enacted subsequent legislation, Senate Bill 1547, which raised the RPS target to 50% renewable electricity by 2040 and which importantly, left the exclusion intact.

By including older, harmful hydroelectric facilities as a qualifying technology, SB 634 would enshrine the damaging effects of those facilities into law, dilute the value of the RECs which are the foundation of the existing renewable electricity laws and disincentivize the construction and acquisition of future renewable resources.

Oregon Environmental Council and our thousands of members throughout the state, urge you to preserve Oregon's leadership in clean, renewable energy and to reject SB 634.

Thank you for considering this testimony.

Sincerely,



Jay Ward
Interim Director of Programs
Oregon Environmental Council
jayw@oeonline.org