

March 19, 2025

Senate Committee on Energy and Environment
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court St. NE
Salem Oregon 97301

RE: Support for SB 1143-1

Dear Chair Sollman, Vice-Chair Brock Smith and Members of the Committee,

My name is Erin Childs, and I serve as the Executive Director of the Renewable Hydrogen Alliance (RHA). RHA is a regional non-profit trade association enabling access to safe, affordable, and renewable hydrogen for communities across the Pacific Northwest. Our 80+ members represent the full value chain of the hydrogen ecosystem – hydrogen technology and service providers, equipment manufacturers, project developers, public transit agencies, labor unions, utilities, and many others with an interest in the clean and renewable hydrogen sector. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 1143-1 on behalf of RHA and its members.

Clean and renewable hydrogen are considered an essential part of Oregon's transition to a clean energy economy. Hydrogen will serve as a transportation fuel for long-route and heavy-duty vehicles; an input for sustainable fuels and locally produced fertilizer; and a critical component of resilient, reliable, efficient energy systems. Recent analysis by Washington Department of Commerce estimates that 27% of the state's total energy use will be met by hydrogen. The Oregon Department of Energy's State Energy Strategy interim findings have already shown that hydrogen will play a critical role in clean fuels supply and electric sector decarbonization.

Hydrogen is also expected to play a role in the supply of clean heating, especially for the high heat industrial processes required to manufacture steel, cement, and glass. As Oregon looks to decarbonize heating end uses, RHA supports exploration of a robust portfolio of clean heating technologies, including thermal energy networks. Flexibility to deploy fit-for-purpose clean energy solutions will enable our state to invest in the resources that best address regional energy, environmental, and economic preferences. A clear state strategy around clean heating solutions will support safe, standardized, and cost-efficient transition and enable appropriate training and workforce development.

Oregon and Washington's clean energy leadership has helped to secure over \$5 billion of committed public and private funding to launch Oregon's nascent renewable and electrolytic hydrogen industry. Continued investment in state policy, technology pilots, and sustainable business models will help Oregon to make the most of this historic investment.

Thank you for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Erin Childs". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Erin" and last name "Childs" clearly distinguishable.

Erin Childs
Executive Director
Renewable Hydrogen Alliance