

February 2, 2026

House Committee on Economic Development, Small Business, and Trade
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court St. NE
Salem Oregon 97301

RE: Support for HB 4086

Dear Chair Nguyen, Vice-Chairs Isadore and Skarlatos, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Rebecca Smith, and I serve as the Senior Director of Policy and Education for 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 HB 4086 on behalf of RHA and its members.

Industrial symbiosis represents an opportunity to advance economic development while meeting our state energy goals. Oregon Department of Energy's (ODOE) State Energy Strategy just reaffirmed that clean fuels, including low-carbon hydrogen, will be an essential part of Oregon's transition to a clean energy economy. Hydrogen production can be a natural by-product of some industrial processes and co-location can reduce costs.

Further, enabling co-location of hydrogen production with either production or end-use facilities can optimize the use of existing energy infrastructure. ODOE also recommended last year aligning the Oregon Economic Development Strategy with ODOE's Oregon Energy Strategy to increase energy efficiency and Oregon's competitiveness while reducing emissions.

Clean and renewable hydrogen are essential for Oregon's energy transition.

ODOE's modeling underpinning the Oregon Energy Strategy found low-carbon hydrogen to be an integral part of the least-cost pathway for meeting the state's energy and climate goals, including industrial processes not appropriate for electrification and heavy-duty transportation. ODOE's analysis identified the need for in-state production of low-carbon fuels like hydrogen to meet growing demand while also supporting local economies and agricultural and forest waste management.

Hydrogen is an essential fuel and feedstock for Oregon's industrial sector

Hydrogen is a flexible, multipurpose resource that can be used as either a clean fuel or a feedstock for industrial processes. Hydrogen is used today as a direct input into industrial processes, including fertilizer production, synthetic fuels refining, and semiconductor manufacturing.

Hydrogen is expected to offer significant opportunities for industrial symbiosis when used in the production of synthetic clean fuels, including sustainable aviation fuel, methanol, ammonia, and renewable diesel, all of which require other clean, low-carbon molecules to support a low-carbon final product. Last month Governor Kotek endorsed RHA member NEXTClean Fuels' planned renewable fuel refinery in Columbia County. NEXTClean is actively working on conversion of field and forest waste as feedstocks, as well as fish and animal tallow and restaurant used cooking oil to produce up to 200,000 tons of renewable fuel a month while generating \$45 million in annual tax revenue to the state and Columbia County and creating 6,000 jobs.

Access to energy infrastructure is essential for hydrogen

Hydrogen production is energy-intensive and requires access to significant amounts of low-cost energy to support the scale required for industrial activities. Oregon will benefit from proactive efforts in industrial symbiosis to identify locations with energy and zoning suitability for hydrogen industrial applications.

Thank you for your consideration,



Rebecca Smith
Senior Director, Policy and Education
Renewable Hydrogen Alliance