

Submitter: D Torres
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1582

I OPPOSE SB 1582!

Improving grid reliability and encouraging distributed energy resources is important, BUT this bill takes a prescriptive and costly approach that shifts risk from utilities and program participants onto all ratepayers.

The bill requires every electric company to create and administer a distributed power plant program, regardless of local grid needs or customer demand. This one-size-fits-all mandate removes flexibility and forces utilities to build new programs even where existing tools or market solutions may already be working.

The bill guarantees cost recovery in rates for “prudently incurred” program costs while also allowing utilities to earn performance incentives. This structure socializes the costs while privatizing the benefits. Ratepayers will bear the financial risk if the programs underperform, yet utilities can still recover expenses and earn incentives for meeting targets set by the commission.

Requiring a standard offer, open access tariff limits innovation and may discourage competitive solutions. By locking in a specific program structure, the bill risks crowding out private market alternatives that could deliver grid services more efficiently and at lower cost.

The bill prioritizes compensation for battery-based energy storage for peak load reduction in the initial program. This favors a narrow set of technologies and customers, potentially excluding lower-income customers and those without the ability to invest in storage systems. The result may be inequitable outcomes and higher bills for customers who cannot participate.

Finally, the reporting, procurement targets, and performance incentive requirements add administrative complexity and regulatory burden. These requirements will increase overhead costs without clear evidence that the benefits will outweigh them.

THIS BILL IS TOO EXPENSIVE FOR OREGONIANS! NO TO SB 1582!