

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

Dear Senate Committee on Energy and Environment,

As an abundance progressive, we need cheap, clean energy and LOTS of it. This is why I am a strong advocate for Community-Based Virtual Power Plants (CBVPPs).

CBVPPs are a strategic move as we look to balance fiscal responsibility with grid modernization. Unlike traditional power plants, which require massive capital investment and years of permitting, CBVPPs aggregate existing local resources—like smart thermostats, home batteries, and electric vehicles—to create a "virtual" power source that is faster, cheaper, and cleaner.

Here is why they deserve your support:

1. Substantial Cost Savings for Constituents

CBVPPs are significantly more cost-effective than building new "peaker" plants. Research from groups like The Brattle Group suggests that VPPs can meet peak demand at 40% to 60% of the cost of traditional gas plants. By avoiding expensive infrastructure build-outs, we can lower utility rates for all ratepayers, not just those participating in the program.

2. Enhanced Grid Reliability and Resilience

Our grid is under increasing stress from extreme weather and rising demand. CBVPPs provide a "local first" defense, allowing utilities to balance the grid in real-time by tapping into neighborhood-level energy reserves. This reduces the risk of rolling blackouts and keeps the lights on during storms or heatwaves without relying on volatile fossil fuel markets.

3. Local Economic Growth

While traditional energy investments often send dollars out of state to fuel providers, CBVPPs keep energy dollars in the local economy. These programs require a workforce of local electricians and technicians to install and maintain smart energy assets, creating high-quality, "un-shoppable" green-collar jobs right in our communities.

4. Rapid Deployment

While a new transmission line or power plant can take a decade to complete, a CBVPP can be launched in months. This makes them the most agile tool available to meet immediate energy needs driven by the growth of data centers and the

electrification of transportation.

By supporting CBVPP legislation, you are choosing a path toward energy independence, lower consumer bills, and a more resilient local economy. It is a common-sense solution that transforms regular homes and businesses into active partners in our state's energy security.

Thank you,
Garet Prior
Wilsonville, Oregon