



## Deborah Kafoury Multnomah County Chair

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March 28, 2019

Stefan Bird  
Chief Executive Officer  
Pacific Power  
825 NE Multnomah St.  
Portland, OR 97232

Dear Mr. Bird:

I am writing to urge Pacific Power to immediately begin working with regulators and stakeholders to close coal-fired generating units that are not cost-effective for Multnomah County ratepayers. With consideration to your recent analysis of Pacific Power's coal-fired generating units, such actions are not only fiscally prudent but also imperative given the dire warnings from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

In June 2017, with Pacific Power's support, Multnomah County committed to transitioning to 100 percent clean and renewable electricity by 2035 and all energy sources by 2050. This is an ambitious timeline, but necessary if we are to avoid the worst impacts of climate change.

Given your shared commitment to these goals, we expect that Pacific Power is advancing, at a minimum, all cost-effective options for minimizing greenhouse gas emissions. This includes the prompt and orderly closure of the 60 percent of Pacific Power owned coal-fired generating units deemed uneconomic by Pacific Power's recent analysis, in the process realizing substantial environmental, health, and economic benefits for ratepayers. Coal units that are not cost-effective should be closed in advance of any regulatory obligations, including SB 1547, which should be viewed as a backstop. In addition, we encourage Pacific Power to accelerate the transition away from all fossil fuel generating units in its portfolio and move toward 100 percent clean and renewable sources of energy. We are eager to work with you in making this transition.

There is no time to waste. Our families and first responders are already suffering from the impacts of a warming world. Last summer our communities dealt with choking wildfire smoke and extreme heat, a deadly combination. Worsening air quality, out of control wildfires, high heat days in the summer, decreased winter snowpack, and unstable weather patterns that increase the likelihood of flooding and landslides, are all direct impacts of climate change we face today. Under these conditions, it is irresponsible for Multnomah County and Multnomah County ratepayers to pay more for electricity produced by coal-fired generating units that emit significant amounts of greenhouse gas emissions.

We value Pacific Power's continued partnership in advancing progress toward 100 percent clean and renewable electricity by 2035, and appreciate its support in our "Pathways to 100" dialogue series. However, goals necessitate real action. By working with regulators and stakeholders towards early retirement of costly coal-fired generating units, Pacific Power can make great strides towards our collective commitment to the community. We understand the complexities of early retirement that Pacific Power must navigate. Nevertheless, it is essential that Pacific Power work with regulators and stakeholders to ensure this is done as quickly as possible.

Thank you for your continued partnership on this journey to a renewable energy future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Deborah", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Deborah Kafoury  
Multnomah County Chair

cc: Scott Bolton, Sheila Holden - Pacific Power  
Megan Decker, Stephen Bloom, Letha Tawney - Oregon Public Utility Commission