

# Support HB 2857

## Support Oregon Small-Scale Renewable Facilities

Current and potential Oregon small-scale renewable facilities are an important part of Oregon’s energy and climate goals and will help create a more diverse and resilient portfolio of electric generation in this state. It is essential that these facilities receive a fair price for the power they provide and procedural protections that allow them the opportunity to review, comment on, and request hearings on proceedings before the Oregon Public Utility Commission (OPUC) that affects the price they are paid.

	<b>What it does?</b>	<b>Why is it needed?</b>
<b>Section 1:</b>	Makes declarations about the importance of small-scale renewable energy in Oregon and changes the standard from an 8% of <i>electrical capacity</i> standard to an 8% of <i>electricity sold</i> standard.	This provision was originally drafted as an <i>electricity sold</i> standard, but in 2016, was changed to a capacity standard. 8% of <i>electricity sold</i> is an easier and more accurate standard to measure than 8% of <i>electrical capacity</i> , so this bill would revert it back to the original measurement.
	Requires the utility to acquire the renewable energy certificates (RECs) associated with the purchased power; make its best efforts beginning on the effective date of the act towards continually increasing its percentage of electricity to meet the standard.	RECs are important to ensure that the energy is purchased with its “renewable attributes” attached; the 8% standard is required to be met in 2025 but by requiring immediate action, the utilities will reach that 8% over time rather than “just in time” to meet the 2025 deadline.
<b>Section 2:</b>	The utilities shall report on their progress towards meeting the 8% standard in renewable portfolio standard implementation plans they already prepare.	This will enable the Commission and stakeholders to track the utilities’ progress towards meeting this standard.
<b>Section 3:</b>	Increases the amount of non-utility owned low impact hydro resources that can qualify for the renewable portfolio standard from 40 average MW to 100.	There are still many opportunities in Oregon for low impact hydro to be developed and contribute to the electric grid.
<b>Section 4:</b>	Strengthens the OPUC’s current goals of promoting small scale renewable development and setting just and reasonable prices to a mandate.	Supports the development of renewables in Oregon by requiring that the OPUC actively promote their development and ensure just and reasonable prices.

	<b>What it does?</b>	<b>Why is it needed?</b>
<b>Section 5:</b>	Gives greater notice and hearing rights to customers and qualifying facilities when a utility proposes to change its price schedule paid to qualifying facilities, and gives certainty regarding when the new prices will take effect.	In the past, utilities have filed “surprise” price changes and requested expedited consideration of their price changes. Customers and qualifying facilities have no rights to additional time to review the filings or request a hearing on the filing.
	The prices a utility will pay must include the cost the utility avoids by avoiding transmission costs and benefiting from local sources of generation.	Currently, renewable facilities are not compensated for the value they provide as a local source of power as compared to the utility’s source of power that must be shipped over transmission lines.
	A renewable facility that is providing capacity to a utility will be paid for its capacity contribution when it renews its contract.	Currently, a renewable facility that is providing capacity to a utility is treated as a “new facility” when it renews its contract and it not paid for its capacity value until the later years of its contract.
	Clarifies that renewable facilities are eligible for standard prices and contracts if they are 10 MW in size or smaller and that includes the amount of any energy storage devices associated with the utility.	Currently, the OPUC has discretion to change the size eligibility for standard prices and contracts and there is no clear direction on the treatment of storage devices.
<b>Section 7:</b>	Provides access to the Oregon courts to decide contract disputes between qualifying facilities and utilities.	Currently, there is no clear statutory direction regarding where contract disputes should be decided.
<b>Section 8:</b>	Clarifies current law that treble damages if a utility is found to be in violation of a contract with a qualifying facility.	Some utilities have asserted that the existing treble damages statute does not cover contracts with qualifying facilities.
<b>Section 9:</b>	Provides that a utility may not charge a qualifying facility for the use of its transmission system unless it joins a regional transmission organization (RTO) or independent system operator (ISO).	An RTO or ISO would allow greater access to the use of the transmission system including more efficient use of transmission resources.





Oregon Water Resources Congress

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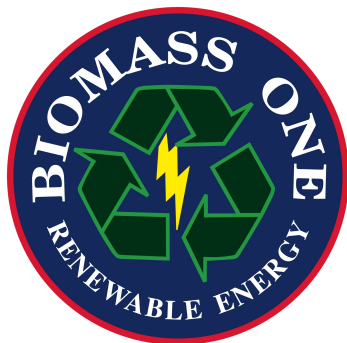
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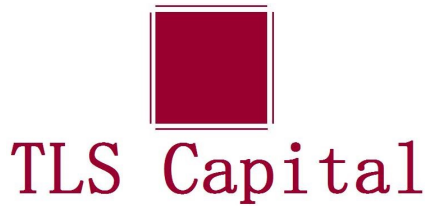
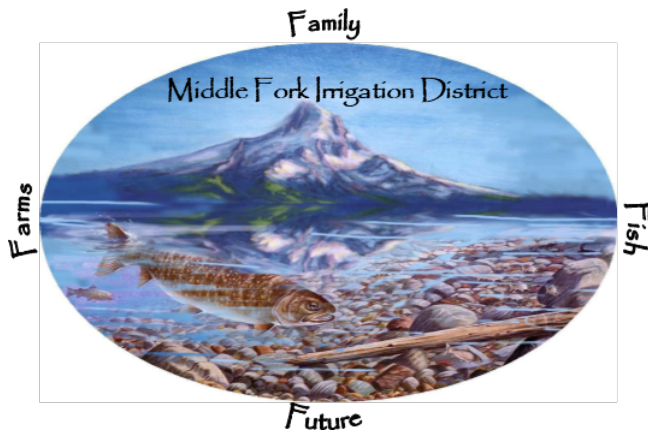
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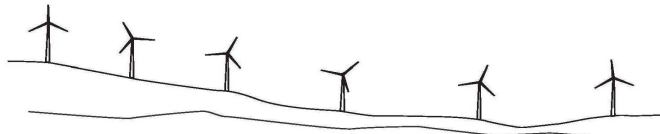
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Supporters (not all have logos):

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Current as of March 19, 2019.