
From: Patrino Beth
Sent: Monday, March 16, 2015 12:22 PM
To: Mickelson Anastasia
Subject: FW: Testimony of the Community Renewable Energy Association on HB 2193

From: brian.skeahan@yahoo.com [mailto:brian.skeahan@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, March 16, 2015 11:43 AM
To: Patrino Beth; Patrino Beth
Subject: Testimony of the Community Renewable Energy Association on HB 2193

The Community Renewable Energy Association (CREA) appreciates the opportunity to offer this testimony in support HB 2193 regarding energy storage systems. CREA also generally supports the proposed amendments to HB 2193.

CREA is a Chapter 190 intergovernmental agency devoted to the promotion and support of community based renewable energy throughout the State of Oregon and at the Federal level. We consist of local governments, including 11 Oregon counties, irrigation districts, law firms, environmental organizations, equipment manufacturers, developers of renewable energy projects, small businesses and individuals interested in and supportive of community based renewable energy policy. Our members include Counties that are the location of the overwhelming majority of Oregon's wind development.

As such CREA believes that it is time for Oregon and the Pacific Northwest to begin to move forward with the development of energy storage. The ability of our existing power system to reliably integrate the roughly 7,000 MW of variable output renewable generation is already somewhat taxed. The planned retirement of the Boardman and Centralia coal plants will undoubtedly result in additional development of variable renewable generation and thereby increase the challenges of reliably integrating these new projects. It is not too soon to begin to work on storage solutions of all types.

CREA supports the proposed amendments to 2193 as providing more flexibility than contained in the original bill. However CREA remains concerned that, while well intentioned, the language, as amended may still unduly restrain the very thing it intends to encourage.

CREA supports all forms of storage, including pumped storage hydro. The Pacific Northwest's multi-purpose hydro power system has been central to not just the Region's power system but is a foundation of the Region's economy. CREA believes that pumped storage hydro must play a central role as our power system evolves to include additional renewable carbon free generation. Pumped storage hydro is developed technology and is capable of bringing the utility scale size necessary to integrate existing and anticipated new generation. Several pumped storage hydro projects are currently being considered for development in Oregon and Washington.

CREA is concerned that, while not stated explicitly, the underlying presumption of this bill is to foster the development of battery technology. CREA supports development of battery technology and believes it too has a valuable role to play in our future power system.

We believe that utilities and the OPUC should be given latitude to utilize their expertise to determine what the right combination and size of storage technologies should be developed to most economically and reliably integrate current and anticipated renewable energy. As such, we would suggest removing the requirement that storage systems procured under this act be limited to one percent of a utility's 2014 peak load, or any reference to size of projects.

Rather than proscribing the size and amount of development through specific language in HB 2193, CREA suggests that an examination of storage should be conducted by the OPUC with requirements for storage being required in the utility's integrated resource plans.

Those suggestions notwithstanding CREA appreciates the Committee's interest and desire in moving the storage discussion forward in Oregon.

Sincerely,

Brian Skeahan,
Director
CREA