



DATE: March 24, 2015

TO: Oregon Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources;  
Oregon State Senators

FROM: Gus Simonds, President and Chairman of the Board, MacDonald-Miller Facility Solutions, Inc.

SUBJECT: Supporting Oregon's Transition from Coal to Clean Energy – SB 477

As the mechanical contractor of choice in Washington and Oregon, MacDonald-Miller Facility Solutions provides mechanical engineering, design-build construction, custom metal fabrication, building system service and maintenance, and energy management programs. We employ 800 employees, and we emphasize operating our business in a low-carbon way. We enable our customers to do the same through energy efficiency measures in the built environment.

MacDonald-Miller supports Oregon Senate Bill 477, to transition Oregon beyond coal to clean, renewable energy. SB 477 presents a reasonable, flexible plan to move Oregon away from out-of-state coal, giving preference to local clean energy jobs in and around Oregon for the replacement power.

MacDonald Miller is a commercial customer of Oregon's electric utilities. We are committed to managing our business activities and internal practices in a sustainable manner, including making our best efforts to reduce our carbon footprint. To accomplish this goal we need our electric utility to be equally as committed to the continued reduction in the carbon content of our electricity, consistent with the guidance of climate science and the goals of the State of Oregon.

On October 27, 2014, MacDonald-Miller joined Oregon and Washington businesses urging our states to take action on climate change. Currently, nearly 500 businesses between our two states – including Nike, Intel, Microsoft, Medford Fabrication, Skanska, Moda Health, and many more – have called for advancing renewable energy and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Perry England, MacDonald-Miller VP of Building Performance Division, said recently: **“The riskiest decision a business person can make is to do nothing.”**

At the launch of the Oregon and Washington Business Climate Declarations, it was communicated clearly that this is a time of huge business risk and also immense economic opportunity for our states. This is the time for the clean energy economy to develop and businesses are leading the way in Oregon and Washington.

We believe careful utility planning and strategic commitments to prioritize energy efficiency and renewable energy can serve to reduce carbon while simultaneously holding down energy costs, maintaining reliability and giving customers rate predictability.



We believe we must move systematically and rapidly to a future of greatly reduced fossil fuel – and especially, coal – generation. PGE’s decision to end coal combustion at its Boardman plant was an important and significant first step. But both electric utilities remain invested in coal resources outside of Oregon. And while a flexible mix of efficiency, renewables and gas can achieve our goals, the time is right to accelerate our clean energy transition. Near term we ask that our utilities not continue putting our ratepayer dollars into older, out of state fossil fuel plants, enabling them to keep running indefinitely. Instead, we ask our utilities to show us a deliberate, realistic path to phasing out coal power and replacing it with a mix of clean energy resources.

In closing, we support Senate Bill 477, and we urge the Senate to vote in favor of this sound policy.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading 'Gus Simonds', written in a cursive style.

Gus Simonds  
President and Chairman of the Board  
MacDonald-Miller Facility Solutions, Inc.