



February 12, 2018

OLCV Testimony on Senate Bills

Dear Chair Beyer, Vice-Chair Thomsen, and Senate Business and Transportation Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to weigh in on SB 1519 with the -1 amendment that proposes significant changes to the Oregon Department of Energy's organizational structure and scope of work.

As you consider this bills, I would like you to consider that any newly-created board or commission for the agency should be able to be forward-thinking so that the agency can continue to make progress on energy and climate as Oregon's landscape changes. The current commission has zero members with climate change expertise or renewable energy, which is problematic. The way we think about **energy** should be equipped to move Oregon forward to a clean energy future. Both of these bills pose significant changes to the agency, which is moving forward, and I urge you to continue to give them the space to do that.

The commission proposed by this bill is stacked with members who do not have the requisite expertise to move the agency in a proactive, climate-change-aware direction.

Additionally, the League is opposed to the removal of several policy statements in the current statute, including:

“Continued growth in demand for nonrenewable energy forms poses a serious and immediate, as well as future, problem. It is essential that future generations not be left a legacy of vanished or depleted resources, resulting in massive environmental, social and financial impact.”

That energy-efficient modes of transportation for people and goods shall be encouraged, while energy-inefficient modes of transportation shall be discouraged.”

These important policy statements reflect the direction that ODOE should currently be heading in, and should not be removed.

Thank you for your time and I look forward to continuing this discussion.

Sincerely,

Paige Spence
Oregon Conservation Director
Oregon League of Conservation Voters