

March 28, 2023

RE: Support for HB 3378-2 (Community Energy Resilience Planning)

Chair Marsh and Members of the House Committee on Climate, Energy and Environment:

The undersigned organizations are writing in support of HB 3378-2, and respectfully ask that the committee provide a Do-pass recommendation.

Increased natural disasters, extreme weather events, and Public Safety Power Shutoffs (PSPS) are causing disruptions to the electric grid and power supply that are igniting a new desire for local energy resilience. These disruptions have significant economic and societal consequences and leave Oregon communities vulnerable to the increasing effects of climate change.

Energy resilience is often cited as a top priority for frontline, rural, Tribal, and under-resourced communities. However, many local governments lack the staffing and financial capacity to develop energy resilience plans needed to capture the benefits of energy resilience projects for their communities. Local governments require capacity and staffing for energy resilience planning and a means of coordinating their efforts with utilities and various state departments.

HB 3378-2 is a step in the right direction towards helping Oregon communities become more resilient to electric grid and power supply disruptions. The bill provides each county with up to \$50,000 for technical assistance to incorporate energy resilience planning in coordination with other hazard mitigation planning work. This bill provides flexible, dedicated support to Oregon counties to plan and pursue community energy resilience strategies and communication zones, and protect their communities from increasing disruptions to the electric grid and power supply.

For these reasons, we support HB 3378-2, and ask for your consideration and leadership to pass this critical legislation.

Sincerely,



