

To: Oregon State Legislature

Date: February 2025

RE: Supporting Oregon's Community Energy Resilience Future

The undersigned partners are writing in support of HB 2064, 2065, and 2066 to open the door to community energy resilience and microgrid development. Advocates across the state are calling for legal and regulatory clarity, as well as equity and access to decision-making, so counties, cities, and Tribal governments can:

- Assess their own energy resilience needs;
- Plan and implement community microgrid projects;
- Partner with private, public, or non-profit entities or utilities in microgrid development; and
- Operate microgrids during normal conditions and emergencies.

Oregon urban, suburban, and rural stakeholders have identified energy resilience and microgrid development as top priorities to respond to and recover from grid disruptions in their communities. The main drivers are the increased occurrence and severity of natural disasters like wildfires, extreme weather, and earthquakes; unprecedented load growth on the state's grid from energy intensive users; and a desire to protect against rising energy costs through local energy production and energy storage. Unfortunately, Oregon's regulatory and policy landscape is stifling the ability of communities to pursue small scale renewable energy projects that would directly enhance preparedness, grid reliability, economic development, affordability, and public safety.

The following legislation has been introduced to address these challenges:

- HB 2064: Islanding Capabilities for Community Microgrids provides guidance to put more decision-making power into the hands of local, frontline community emergency management teams.
- HB 2065: Third-Party Participation in Community Energy Planning and Development addresses bottlenecks in the energy planning process to get projects built and meet clean energy goals.
- HB 2066: Legality, Valuation, and Financing of Microgrids requires PUC to establish clarity and compensatory mechanisms to support community-scale microgrid development and resiliency strategies.

Advocates across Oregon urge the legislature to support community-led clean energy projects to achieve energy resilience, broad public benefit, and state clean energy mandates. We urge the legislature to consider and pass HB 2064, 2065, and 2066 in the 2025 Oregon Legislative Session.

Thank you for your leadership and consideration.

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Community Renewable Energy Association
Heartwood Biomass LLC
Hood River Energy Council
Microgrid Resources Coalition
League of Oregon Cities
Oregon Coast Energy Alliance Network
Oregon Solar+Storage Industries Association
The Environmental Center

ProtoGen, Inc.
Reimagine Power
Rogue Climate
Solar Oregon
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