



Comments of the Northwest & Intermountain Power Producers Coalition to the Oregon House Committee on Environment and Natural Resources on House Bill 4059

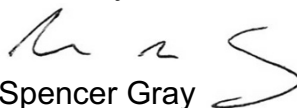
February 7, 2022

The Northwest & Intermountain Power Producers Coalition (NIPPC) appreciates the opportunity to submit comments on HB 4059. NIPPC represents competitive power participants in the Pacific Northwest. NIPPC members include owners, operators, and developers of independent power generation and storage, power marketers, and affiliated companies. Collectively, NIPPC represents over 4,500 megawatts of operating generation and an equal amount permitted or under development. This includes much of the clean energy that now serves Oregon consumers and the new projects that will be built to meet the standards adopted last year in HB 2021.

NIPPC deeply appreciates the work of Chair Pam Marsh and her staff to convene and help lead the diverse coalition that supports HB 4059. NIPPC similarly appreciates the collaborative work of labor representatives, the other renewable energy developer organizations, and the investor-owned utilities to refine and improve the “responsible contractor labor standards” in section 26 of HB 2021. The -3 amendment of HB 4059 represents this collective work, and NIPPC supports the amendment.

HB 4059 is needed in order to ensure greater clarity in how to implement HB 2021’s ambitious and achievable clean energy standards. The bill provides important refinements of the two compliance pathways for the labor standards: (1) use of a project labor agreement or (2) compliance with prevailing wage and apprenticeship requirements, among other standards. These technical fixes include clarity about using and demonstrating use of both compliance pathways, clarity about a good-faith demonstration of developers’ efforts to comply with the apprenticeship requirement, and a savings clause about projects on tribal jurisdictions. Taken together, these important refinements will improve implementation of HB 2021 and ensure that the state’s clean energy transition will provide significant opportunities for Oregon workers.

Sincerely,



Spencer Gray
Executive Director