



February 28, 2024

Re: Support for SB 1581-1

Dear Chair Marsh, Vice-Chairs Emerson Levy and Bobby Levy, and members of the House Committee on Climate, Energy, and Environment:

MCAT (Mobilizing Climate Action Together) is a community of volunteers working to ensure that Oregon builds a healthy climate and a green-energy economy for future generations. We support SB 1581-1, the Regional Energy Market reporting bill. It will require Oregon's large investor-owned utilities to provide an annual update to the Legislature on activities that they are taking towards joining a regional energy market.

Approximately half the electricity used in Oregon is generated with renewables (hydro, wind and solar). The other half comes from gas and coal plants that are located both in-state and out-of-state. Within several decades demand for electricity is expected to double as we continue to replace fossil fuels used in transportation, buildings and industry. Three years ago the 'Clean Energy for All' bill (HB-2021) was passed which requires all electricity used in the state be carbon-free by 2040. Hitting that target requires increasing the supply of clean electricity by 300% within 15 years. Oregon has ample resources like wind (especially offshore) and solar to **achieve that goal with in-state generation**. Joining a single regional electricity market like an RTO would help to fully maximize these resources and equitably and affordably distribute the clean energy generated. It may also minimize environmental impacts and help support job creation.

SB 1581 will help the legislature to stay informed regarding this critical aspect of meeting our clean energy goals and maintaining a reliable grid for the future.

Thank you for your consideration,

Michael Mitton

MCAT Steering Committee

Brett Baylor, Rick Brown, Linda Craig, Pat DeLaquil, Dan Frye, Debby Garman, KB Mercer, Michael Mitton, Rich Peppers, Rand Schenck, Jane Stackhouse, Joe Stenger and Catherine Thomasson