



August 21, 2015

Public Utility Commission of Oregon
Attn: Filing Center
201 High Street, S.E.
P.O. Box 1088
Salem, OR 97308-1088

Sent via email: Puc.Filingcenter@state.or.us

RE: UM 1690, Business Oregon's General Comments on Voluntary Renewable Energy Tariffs for Non-Residential Customers

Chair John Savage and Commissioners Ackerman and Bloom:

As industry consultants and site selectors with CH2M, we regularly work with companies searching for locations for business expansion. This is a highly competitive process; companies have choices both here in the United States and across the globe when determining where to locate.

Businesses consider a variety of factors when deciding on where to locate – tax structure, land availability, access to markets, reliability and adequacy of energy to serve their facility. Given your consideration of UM 1690 (the Voluntary Renewable Energy Tariff), we wanted to take the opportunity to relay a new factor we have seen as companies are considering their options – the availability of green energy. Having the opportunity for a utility to provide green energy options, beyond just renewable energy credits (RECS), for industrial customers makes Oregon more competitive on that issue. Some of the world's largest companies have implemented sustainability and renewable energy goals that require that their future factories have access to green power options and more are looking to participate in actual projects. In addition, companies that care about powering their facilities with renewable energy would seem to fit with Oregon's goals and values.

Businesses across a wide array of industries would be interested in a straightforward VRET program that made it easy for them to participate in. A successful program resulting from UM 1690 would allow Oregon to provide a product that a growing number of businesses are seeking. Though Oregon's economy has seen some recovery, additional businesses locating in the state would mean more jobs, more investment in local communities and more revenues available to support critical public services.

Sincerely,

Dick J. Sheehy

Director, Site Selection
Industrial & Advanced Technology