May 15, 2017

Chair Lisa Hardie
Commissioner Steve Bloom
Commissioner Megan Decker
Oregon Public Utility Commission
201 High St SE, Suite 100
Salem, Oregon 97301
puc.filingcenter@state.or.us

Re: Oregon Public Utility Commission Staff: Request for Investigation into the Treatment of New Facility Direct Access Loads
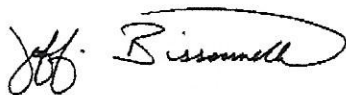
Dear Commissioners:

We are writing on behalf of our organizations to express strong support for the Oregon Public Utility Commission ("OPUC") opening an investigation into the treatment of new facilities under Oregon's direct access program. We supported the Northwest and Intermountain Power Producers Coalition's Senate Bill 979, which, among other things, would have exempted certain new loads from paying exit fees or transition charges. While SB 979 did not become law, Senator Lee Beyer requested that the OPUC consider the issue of exist fees and transition charges for new loads wishing to exit cost of service to secure power generated by renewable sources of energy.

The OPUC should open a focused investigation to ensure that new loads are not charged exit fees or other transition charges. New loads are incremental to what a utility has planned to serve, and there should not be any fixed generation costs that need to be accounted for.
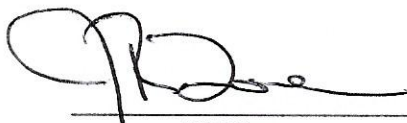
Businesses around the United States including those doing business in Oregon are looking to gain greater control and certainty over their power supply to lower costs and meet other corporate goals, including purchasing additional renewable energy. Oregon will become more competitive if larger consumers are able to make power supply decisions that lower their business costs and expand their facilities. There will be other numerous benefits, including permitting competition to drive down prices for all customers, increasing environmental benefits, and encouraging new development that will add to local tax base while making it easier for communities to attract new businesses.

We urge you to open an investigation and exempt new facilities from exit fees or transition charges.

Sincerely,

_____   _____   _____
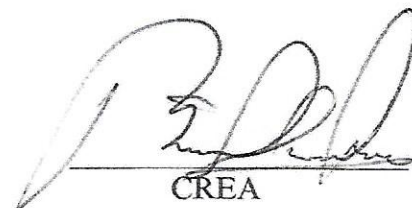   OSEIA   REC   CREA