

From: [Joanie Deutsch](#)
To: [PUC.FilingCenter](#)
Subject: Re: Oregon Public Utility Commission Staff: Request for Investigation into the Treatment of New Facility Direct Access Loads
Date: Monday, May 15, 2017 3:27:11 PM
Attachments: [PastedGraphic-7.tiff](#)

May 15, 2017

Via Email

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:

I am writing on behalf of TechNet to express strong support for the Oregon Public Utility Commission (“OPUC”) to open an investigation into the treatment of new facilities under Oregon’s direct access program.

TechNet represents the nation’s leading technology companies and TechNet supported the Northwest and Intermountain Power Producers Coalition’s Senate Bill 979, which would have exempted certain new loads from paying exit fees or transition charges. TechNet was proud to support SB 979 for its promotion of customer choice, support for innovation and empowerment, and a step forward in bringing Oregon energy policy to the 21st century. The high tech industry in Oregon is committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and expanding the use of renewable energy in the near term. SB 979 did not become law, but

Senator Lee Beyer requested that the OPUC take another look at the issue of exist fees and transition charges.

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 the loads that a utility planned to serve, and there should not be any fixed generation costs that need to be paid for these new loads.

TechNet member businesses greatly value bringing on new renewable power above and beyond Oregon's RPS. The Commission should remove obstacles inhibiting full implementation of direct access programs precisely in the manner our member companies seek.

The Commission should simplify direct access for consumers who want to leave utility cost of service and procure renewable energy. TechNet members can meet their corporate sustainability and carbon reduction goals and boost Oregon's economy in the process. The need for innovation, efficiency and choice is clear. Competition is the proven best way to achieve both.

For these reasons, please open an investigation and exempt new facilities from exit fees or transition charges.

Sincerely,

Joanie Deutsch

Executive Director, Northwest

TechNet

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JOANIE (JO) DEUTSCH
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