

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION**

**OF OREGON**

**AR 616**

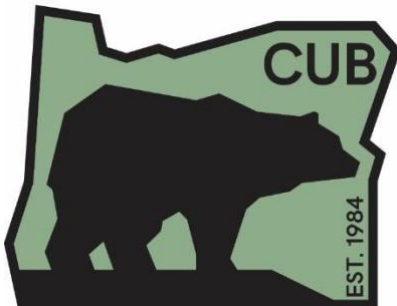
In the Matter of )  
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 Rulemaking Related to Renewable )  
 Portfolio Standard Planning and Reports. )  
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**COMMENTS**

**OF THE**

**OREGON CITIZENS' UTILITY BOARD**

October 22, 2020



**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION  
OF OREGON**

**AR 616**

In the Matter of	)	
	)	COMMENTS OF THE
Rulemaking Related to Renewable Portfolio	)	OREGON CITIZENS' UTILITY
Standard Planning and Reports.	)	BOARD ON STAFF'S PROPOSED
	)	RULE LANGUAGE
	)	
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**I. INTRODUCTION**

The Oregon Citizens' Utility Board (CUB) hereby submits its comments on Oregon Public Utility Commission Staff's (Staff) proposed language for Associated Energy Storage in this Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) Planning and Reports Rulemaking. CUB supports the rule language proposed by Staff in its October 8, 2020 filing.

**II. DISCUSSION**

CUB previously presented comments in response to Staff Questionnaires for stakeholders in this docket. CUB supports Staff's proposed definition of associated energy storage. As a stakeholder involved in the legislative process that led to the passage of Oregon's RPS, CUB believes Staff's proposed language furthers the intent of the legislature. The positions of the utilities would represent a marked departure from the legislature's intent that energy storage must be "associated" with an RPS-eligible resource in order to be recoverable through the Renewable Resources Automatic Adjustment Clause (RAC).

CUB would like to bring attention to the RPS provision that associated transmission be recoverable through the RAC. While most transmission lines move renewable energy from its generation source to load, SB 838 explicitly defined “associated transmission” as segment of the transmission that was added as part of the renewable project. SB 838’s guidance was clear that a transmission investment must have been built for the purpose of interconnecting an RPS-eligible resource. It is CUB’s contention, based upon firsthand involvement in the creation of SB 1547, that an identical standard should be applied to associated energy storage. CUB believes that an associated energy storage project should be directly associated with an RPS eligible resource in order to be eligible for cost recovery under the RAC. Staff’s proposed rule language sets parameters around the level of “association” necessary for inclusion in the RAC.

The Staff memo cites several existing regimes and requirements for energy storage to be considered as a renewable resource on the utility’s system.<sup>1</sup> The different regimes indicate that energy storage by itself cannot be considered as a renewable generating resource. The WREGIS rules indicate, for example, that the energy storage resource must be co-located with a renewable generation resource to qualify for REC. Similarly, Investment tax Credit (ITC) rules suggest that an energy storage resource must be “primarily” charged from renewable energy resources for the hybrid resource to receive full tax credits. CUB believes that Staff’s proposed language is meaningful both to further the legislature’s intent and in the light of nationally implemented rules and standards.

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<sup>1</sup> [https://edocs.puc.state.or.us/efdocs/HAH/ar616hah131734.pdf](https://edocs.puc.state.or.us/efddocs/HAH/ar616hah131734.pdf)

CUB therefore respectfully requests the Commission to accept Staff's proposed language in this rulemaking.

Dated this 22nd day of October 2020

Respectfully submitted,



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