



Mark Meek
State Representative
District 40

Chair Megan Decker
Commissioner Letha Tawney
Commissioner Mark Thompson
Oregon Public Utility Commission
201 High Street SE, Suite 100
Salem, OR 97301-3398

March 26, 2020

RE: Support for Waiver Request, Willamette Falls Paper Company
Docket DR 56

Dear Chair Decker, Commissioner Tawney, and Commissioner Thompson,

On behalf of Oregon House District 40, I write today to encourage you to grant the Declaratory Order, or alternatively grant appropriate waivers, to allow Willamette Falls Paper Company (“Willamette Paper”) to receive service on PGE’s system through the Direct Access program or the New Load Direct Access program, as outlined in Willamette Paper’s March 16, 2020, filing with the OPUC in Docket DR 56.

Willamette Falls Paper Company recently re-opened a major paper manufacturing facility in our area. This mill has been in operation for most of the last 125 years, and provides significant employment opportunities while producing an important, environmentally sustainable product.

This facility is vital to our community. Its financial viability depends upon maintaining its status as a direct access customer entitled to purchase power from the market, as it has done for more than a decade, without the obligation to pay additional transition costs that could make the facility non-competitive.

We urge you to swiftly grant the relief requested in Docket DR 56 so that Willamette Paper can continue to provide our area with high paying jobs, reduce post-consumer waste, and manufacture paper using environmentally friendly technology (including using agricultural, non-wood fibers to produce paper products).

Sincerely,

Representative Mark Meek