



**Portland General Electric Company**  
121 SW Salmon Street • Portland, Oregon 97204

December 12, 2017

The Honorable Representative Walberg  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2436 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Walberg:

On behalf of Portland General Electric Company, I am writing in strong support of H.R. 4476, the PURPA Modernization Act of 2017. We appreciate your leadership in introducing this important legislation to bring about common sense reforms to an outdated statute.

The Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 (PURPA) was enacted to increase energy independence in the midst of an energy crisis. Much has changed in the decades since the Act's passage – the structure of the electric sector, technological advances enabling increased renewables, and broad policy support for renewable development. Since PURPA's passage, laws promoting renewable power have resulted in the development of a robust renewable energy industry and significant renewable power growth. This has eroded the need for PURPA to prop up renewables developers – many of them multinational companies - at the expense of utility customers.

Portland General Electric (PGE) is fully committed to building a cleaner energy future for Oregon. PGE was among the first energy companies to advocate for climate legislation at the national level and we have a long history of helping to shape and support state and national policies that promote renewable energy, energy efficiency, smart grid and storage deployment, transportation electrification, and greenhouse gas emission reductions. At present, our generation mix is about 40% carbon-free. By 2040, 70% of PGE's energy will be from carbon-free resources.

Nearly forty years after PURPA's enactment, the statute requires modernization to align it with today's need to significantly reduce the carbon emissions from the nation's energy use at the lowest possible cost to customers. PURPA's mandatory purchasing obligation significantly and unnecessarily increases the costs of decarbonizing the electricity sector for PGE's customers because PURPA contracts lack the planning and cost scrutiny undertaken for other resource decisions. PGE estimates that if all the 1,218 MW of PURPA projects that are currently online, under contract, or in process come online, PGE's customers would be forced to pay more than \$703 million above competitive procurement prices over the next 15 years. PGE could also face significant reliability risk as many PURPA generators are not subject to the same reliability requirements as other renewable generators.

PURPA should be modernized to achieve the law's intent in today's renewable energy economy while protecting utility customers from excessive costs.

We support congressional action to address the issues associated with outdated PURPA requirements. We therefore urge prompt consideration of H.R. 4476.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sania Radcliffe".

Sania Radcliffe  
Director of Government Affairs and Environmental Policy