

# SB 838: POWERING OREGON'S FUTURE

*a continuing series on why renewable energy matters...*

[www.poweringoregonsfuture.org](http://www.poweringoregonsfuture.org)

## *Protecting Oregon's Businesses with Renewable Energy*

### **A RENEWABLE ENERGY STANDARD PROTECTS BUSINESS ENERGY CONSUMERS**

A Renewable Energy Standard protects Oregon businesses from rising fossil fuel prices. Utilities throughout the Northwest and across the country are finding renewable energy resources, such as wind, geothermal and biomass, are among their cheapest options for electricity.<sup>1</sup> Renewable resources generate electricity at a predictable price because a utility does not buy fuel to power wind turbines or solar panels; the fuel is free.

*"Wind power can offer electricity at a 20-year fixed price. You can't get that guarantee from fossil fuels!"*  
-Chris Taylor, Horizon Wind Energy

### **FOSSIL FUELS ARE RISKY BUSINESS FOR OREGON**

Oregon relies on imported coal and natural gas for over half of the electricity consumed in the state. Fossil fuel prices are volatile and on the rise, making our reliance on them 'risky business' for Oregon's economy. Using more electricity from renewable resources will diversify Oregon's energy resource portfolio and insulate businesses from the unpredictable price increases that fossil fuels will bring.

*Like a diversified stock portfolio, a diverse energy supply that includes renewable energy sources will offer Oregon's businesses the lowest price with the lowest risk.*

### **RENEWABLE ENERGY PROTECTS OREGON'S BUSINESSES FROM FUTURE CARBON REGULATIONS**

Dirty fossil fuels spew greenhouse gases and harmful pollutants. These pollutants, such as carbon dioxide and mercury, will soon be subject to more stringent environmental regulations including approaching global warming legislation. As the cost of emitting these pollutants rises so will the cost of electricity from coal and natural gas, meaning our reliance on these carbon-intense fossil fuels adds further risk for Oregon businesses. Using more carbon-free renewable energy sources will protect Oregon's businesses from the rising cost of fossil fuels.

*"A Renewable Energy Standard will put Oregon businesses at a competitive advantage in the coming carbon-constrained economy."*  
-Chris Rich, Oregon Business Association



1. "PGE's 2007 Integrated Resource Plan - Stakeholder Dialogue No. 6." Portland General Electric (February 2007). See pgs 13-14; "2004 Integrated Resource Plan Update." PacifiCorp (November 2005). See pgs 61-62; "2005 Least Cost Plan." Puget Sound Energy (April 2005).

October 10th, 2007

**For information call: Jesse Jenkins, Renewable Northwest Project (503-223-4544) • Jeremiah Baumann, Environment Oregon (503-936-3200) • Jeff Bissonnette, Fair & Clean Energy Coalition (503-516-1636)**