



Jessica Vega Pederson
Multnomah County Commissioner



Office of Mayor Ted Wheeler
City of Portland

August 4, 2017

Dear Commissioners,

Multnomah County and the City of Portland are aware that you are currently considering Portland General Electric's 2016 Integrated Resource Plan, including the utility's proposal to develop renewable resources ahead of actual compliance needs under the State's Renewable Portfolio Standard. Respectfully, the County and City request that you consider supporting this element of PGE's IRP.

It is an undeniable fact that the climate is changing in dramatic ways, due primarily to human emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases. If there is any message from the current heat wave we are experiencing, it is that the time to act on climate change is now. That is why in June of this year the County and City jointly committed to transitioning our community to 100 percent renewable electricity by 2035, and 100 percent renewable energy by 2050. That resolution is our expression of the public's desire to see decisive action taken to dramatically reduce our community's carbon emissions on as fast a time table as possible. Our utility partners - and the sources of the energy they supply - are critical to that effort.

Portland General Electric's desire in acting now to secure renewable energy resources is commendable, showing a clear level of foresight and responsiveness to the public's desire to see carbon-based energy sources phased out of our power grid. If Portland General Electric is successful in acquiring the 175 average megawatts of renewable energy, that will place them at 50 percent carbon-free generation by 2020. We commend them for acting now to secure their legacy as a utility provider committed to a just transition to a renewable energy future, and encourage the early acquisition of renewable energy resources.

We acknowledge the Public Utility Commission's mandate to balance multiple interests, but no action is ever risk free. New technologies may arise which would serve customers more efficiently and effectively, but there are also risks in not acting, including failing to make progress on our community's renewable energy commitments, as well as the increased risk of the consequences of climate change. We believe that the prudent step is to act now and encourage the Commission to take the long-term view in that regard.

Sincerely,

Jessica Vega Pederson
Multnomah County Commissioner

Ted Wheeler
Mayor of Portland