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ATTN: Senate Committee on Environment & Natural Resources

Chair Dembrow & members of the committee,

My name is Sal Peralta,

I am testifying on behalf of the Independent Party of Oregon on SB 1537, which seeks to establish an Oregon Energy Commission. We note that the house is currently considering an analog to this bill, HB 4148 last week.

IPO opposes both bills. In the case of HB 4148, we oppose because the bill contains provisions that allow the governor to appoint two voting members of the commission who hold a stated conflicts of interest.

In the case of SB 1537, we oppose because the legislation allows 3 permanent non-voting members to be appointed who represent commercial interests and who hold conflicts of interest, despite the fact that two members of the board are already appointed to represent the interests of commercial and industrial users. There is no need to advantage entities or individuals with stated conflicts by naming them to this board.

There are many subject matter experts on these matters currently residing in this background and expertise to serve on the board who do not hold conflicts of interest. There is no need to advantage individuals or companies that are so conflicted by giving them seats on the board whether those seats are voting or non-voting.

Respectfully,

Sal Peralta