



Senator Bill Hansell

Oregon State Capitol
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May 24, 2013

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Hansell backs petition supporting hydro power

Hydro-power is a key pillar of Oregon economy

Salem, OR – Senator Bill Hansell (R-Athena) is supporting a petition to recognize all hydro-electric power as renewable energy. Hansell said that access to clean, abundant and renewable hydroelectricity is a vital competitive advantage in the state, and should be protected.

“Oregon’s clean and affordable hydroelectric power is a foundation of Oregon’s economy and infrastructure,” said Hansell. “It is also a foundation from which communities can compete and attract high wage businesses to Oregon. Hydropower should be recognized for the important economic and environmental boon that it is to Oregon.”

In 2007, the Oregon legislature established a Renewable Portfolio Standard, or RPS. The RPS requires utilities to deliver a certain percentage of their power production from renewable sources by 2025. Hydropower was only allowed to count for this percentage with certain conditions and limitations, despite being a renewable, abundant and clean source of power.

Many Oregon companies have located to the state specifically because of the affordable power provided by hydro facilities. Allowing hydropower to count towards Oregon’s Renewable Portfolio Standard would help keep energy prices low for families and employers.

“Oregon is one of the nation’s renewable energy leaders,” said Hansell. “We should not fail to recognize that Oregon is uniquely positioned to support the creation of hydroelectric power and to capitalize on the low-cost power it provides. There is an opportunity to attract new businesses to our community with this clean and affordable power source.”

The group Oregonians for Renewable Power is pushing the petition for the November 2014 ballot. The petition needs 87,000 signatures to qualify for the ballot.

Hansell has been a campus minister, a rancher, a farmer and a county commissioner. He is a graduate of Athena Public Schools, the University of Oregon, and the Harvard University JFK School of Government program for state and local governments.



Senator Hansell signs the petition

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