

Senate passes Oregon renewable energy act

by Bend_Weekly_News_Sources

Package will set the standard for a cleaner environment through renewable energy

SALEM- The Oregon Senate today passed Senate Bill 838, legislation that will set new standards for renewable energy among energy providers in Oregon. The package sets a goal of 25 percent renewable energy production by the year 2025 and will make Oregon a leader in working towards a cleaner environment and building a renewable energy industry.

“This legislation continues the Oregon tradition of being a leader when it comes to our environment and livability,” said Senator Brad Avakian (D-Portland/Beaverton). “We have taken a big step forward in protecting our environment and creating sustainable energy.”

Senate Bill 838 creates new standards for the amount of renewable energy in which companies must invest. Companies will be able to make this investment through creating their own renewable energy or by investing in other companies that develop renewable energy. The bill will take advantage of new energy resources such as wind, solar, wave and geothermal technology.

“This is landmark legislation for Oregon,” said Senate Majority Leader Kate Brown (D-Portland). “The benefits of this legislation will pay off for future generations of Oregonians.”

“This energy package is the result of hard work and collaboration by many diverse interests,” said Senator Avakian. “This shows what can be achieved when everyone works towards the common goal of sustainable energy and protecting the environment.”

Senate Bill 838 creates exemptions for companies that produce less than 1.5 percent of the total energy production in Oregon. The legislation also allows companies to invest in research and development of

renewable energy to achieve the standard if they are not able to produce it on their own.

Senate Bill 838 will now move to the House for consideration.

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