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Oregon Governor Kate Brown Signs Historic Coal Transition Bill Into Law

New law will move Oregon off coal power, double state's clean energy target to 50% by 2040

PORLAND, Ore. – Oregon Governor Kate Brown has signed landmark climate legislation into law that will commit the state to eliminate its use of coal power by 2035 and double the amount of clean, renewable energy serving Oregonians to 50 percent by 2040. The legislation also expands vehicle electrification in Oregon. Otherwise known as the Clean Electricity and Coal Transition act, Senate Bill 1547-B received final approval on the Senate floor last week after the Oregon House approved the bill in a 38-20 bipartisan vote.

The Clean Electricity and Coal Transition act was crafted by bringing diverse parties to the table, including Oregon's two largest electric utilities, energy industry and business groups, advocacy and community organizations. The law represents the most significant state-level legislative action on climate change taken in the United States in the wake of the historic Paris agreement reached in December.

Analysis of the legislation's expected impact has shown that the plan will reduce carbon pollution across the western states by 30 million metric tons - the equivalent of taking 6.4 million cars off the road. The legislation also includes provisions to keep electricity prices affordable and ensure reliable electric service for utility customers.

The electric utilities affected by the bill, Portland General Electric and Pacific Power, will work with the OPUC through their integrated resource plans to develop implementation strategies to meet the state's new renewable power and coal transition standards.

Governor Brown, along with community leaders, electric utilities, and Oregonians from across the state praised the landmark legislation:

"Knowing how important it is to Oregonians to act on climate change, a wide range of stakeholders came to the table around Oregonians' investments in coal and renewable energy," **said Governor Kate Brown.** "Working together, they found a path to best equip our state with the energy resource mix of the future. Now, Oregon will be less reliant on fossil fuels and shift our focus to clean energy. I'm proud to sign a bill that moves Oregon forward, together with the shared values of current and future generations."

"CUB believes that this a big victory for utility customers. Coal is a huge financial risk and we are mitigating this risk by moving away from coal and investing in clean energy instead," **said Bob Jenks, Executive Director of the Citizens' Utility Board of Oregon (CUB).** "Congratulations to everyone who worked so hard to make this happen."

"This landmark climate legislation puts Oregon on a bold new course," **said Kristen Sheeran, Oregon Director of Climate Solutions.** "Moving away from coal and oil toward clean, renewable electricity raises the bar for clean energy in other states."

"This groundbreaking law resulted from a collaboration of utility, consumer, and environmental interests that worked together to ensure cleaner air and reliable, affordable electricity for Oregonians," **said Natural Resources Defense Council western energy director Noah Long.** "Approving the nation's first legislation to fully transition away from coal-powered electricity just weeks after the U.S. Supreme Court temporarily delayed the Obama administration's Clean Power Plan to limit power plant pollution shows Oregon's leadership in the fight against climate change."

"Today, Oregon takes a big step on our path to clean electricity. We look forward to continuing the collaboration that forged the Clean Electricity and Coal Transition Plan so the law is implemented in a way that maximizes jobs and economic benefits for Oregon, while ensuring affordable electricity for all consumers," **said NW Energy Coalition policy director Wendy Gerlitz.**

"The Clean Electricity and Coal Transition act shows that we can come together to advance real climate solutions as we move away from coal and toward more clean energy. Through leaders like Governor Brown and climate champions in Salem, Oregon is charting a bold course for the nation as we accelerate the transition away from dirty fuels of the past," **said Amy Hojnowski, Sr. Representative for the Sierra Club's Beyond Coal campaign.**

"Oregon had a clear choice to make: do we want to power our homes with coal or with clean energy? Today it is clear we chose clean," **says Oregon Environmental Council Executive Director Andrea Durbin.** "Kissing coal goodbye and doubling renewable energy will give Oregon some of the cleanest power in the country, delivers clean energy for all Oregon families and re-establishes our state as a leader in green."

"Coal costs us all -- it's hurting our climate, our economy, and our communities," **said Doug Moore, Oregon League of Conservation Voters Executive Director.** "Oregonians want clean energy, not dirty coal, and this is a day our community will remember."

"Our company has been reducing reliance on coal generation and expanding our renewable energy portfolio for the past 10 years as market forces, regulation and evolving customer preference continue to drive change in the way electricity is generated and delivered," **stated Stefan Bird, President and CEO of Pacific Power.** "This landmark legislation allows us to effectively manage Oregon's transition to a clean energy future in a manner that protects customers from cost impacts, ensures grid reliability and allows us to meet all of our responsibilities to the communities we serve."

"Oregon is moving toward a cleaner energy future," **said Jim Piro, President and CEO of Portland General Electric, Oregon's largest electric utility.** "The path forward was forged through a collaborative process where we all tried to balance stakeholder needs. We look forward to working with the Public Utility Commission and all of our stakeholders to implement this policy in a way that benefits the environment, manages price impacts for our customers, and ensures that the reliability of the electric grid is not compromised."

"Oregonians are renewing our leadership in the clean energy economy with this new law. The benefits for our health, our climate and our economy will be enjoyed for years to come," **said Thomas Wheatley, Campaign Director for Renew Oregon, the clean energy coalition that this week withdrew the ballot measure with the same goals as the new law.**

"The Clean Electricity and Coal Transition Plan sets Oregon apart as a national leader on the path to a clean energy future, one that reflects our history, our experience, our citizens and our values," **said Rachel Shimshak, Executive Director, Renewable Northwest.**

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