



July 27, 2026

Good morning Mayor Pace, and members of the Council:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment today. My name is Adam Capage and I am the Director of Outreach and Communications at Renewable Northwest (RNW). We are a regional, non-profit renewable energy advocacy organization. Our members are a combination of renewable energy businesses—including battery energy storage developers—as well as environmental and consumer groups.

My comments here today will be limited to consideration of battery energy storage systems (BESS). Specifically, RNW respectfully requests that BESS not be included in this moratorium and that the regulation of BESS be considered separately, when the city has adequate resources to do this important work. RNW notes that as required by state statute, city staff has established and resourced a work plan to complete changes in plans, regulations, and procedures for data centers, but we saw no similar plans for a BESS review. This will make a timely and thoughtful process difficult, and planning to do a review of BESS regulations separately is reasonable.

Battery energy storage systems are a growing and essential feature of a reliable electricity system. They play a vital role in Oregon's energy future and they already support energy resilience and affordable electric service in Hillsboro. I want to stress: Renewable NW is fully supportive of the creation of standards for BESS that will allow Hillsboro to site these important utility facilities responsibly, safely and cost-effectively. We have helped with similar work in counties across the Pacific NW and we have found that sharing lessons learned is helpful.

RNW is always pleased to participate in a process in which there is a mandate to arrive at balanced standards. Such a process benefits from acknowledging the societal value of battery energy storage systems, the evolution of the technology, and current national safety standards and fire safety training requirements. RNW commends for including exactly this sort of

information in the referenced materials provided to staff. We've specifically found the report from the University of Michigan useful.

Battery energy storage systems and data centers are very different facilities and each brings their own questions and considerations. Meeting the requirements of a moratorium is best addressed with separate processes and RNW hopes the Council will consider the recommendation to develop BESS standards separately, outside of the proposed moratorium under consideration today.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment today. And thank you for your work.

Sincerely,

Adam Capage
Director Outreach and Communications
Renewable Northwest