

To: Senate Committee on Energy and Environment
From: Suni Danforth, Umatilla County Resident
Re: SB 1034 Amending ORS 469.504, Energy facility land use compliance
Date: March 30, 2025

Chair Stollman, Vice-Chair Smith and Committee Members:

I write in support of SB 1034. This bill will help to keep local control with ordinances over the state siting of future energy projects in ALL of Oregon. I appreciate Senator Nash for submitting this very important bill and the committee for giving a hearing with the ability to submit written testimony.

Periodically the state land use ordinances need to be updated to current times and events. SB 1034 is one such bill to help with local control of energy siting. While Oregon needs to grow in energy generation, which is being sited all over Oregon, it is very important for an agency siting these developments to follow local ordinances.

The Oregon Supreme Court decision in Umatilla County v Oregon DOE undermined the strength of local ordinances. While we have codes that say Counties can, and are encouraged to, adopt ordinances that are stricter than state ordinances. The court undermined that possibility and, in my opinion, lost credibility in the land use system.

Oregon has gone to great lengths to preserve its precious land resources. Because of this Oregon is very desirable to varied energy developments, not to mention the transmission lines we have in NE Oregon. Counties have limited ways to help its citizenry in preserving its natural resources. With the Oregon Supreme court decision, mentioned above, I believe counties and the citizens lost confidence in the ability to continue to protect local resources.

I support SB 1034, and believe when passed, will bring confidence back to local land use. I urge passage of SB 1034.

Thank you,

Suni Danforth