

Vote NO on SB 1034

Maintain EFSC's ability to make balanced decisions that consider both local considerations and the needs of the state.

What Does SB 1034 Do?

Senate Bill 1034 would require the Energy Facility Siting Council ("EFSC") to comply with local land use regulations related to siting new generation and transmission projects even if those local land use requirements are outside of statewide planning goals. In so doing, it adds a layer of complexity to siting future energy projects that is likely to increase project costs and create delays. EFSC already thoroughly considers local impacts and needs when siting energy projects at the state level. In addition, as recently affirmed by the Oregon Supreme Court, EFSC uses statewide planning goals to guide its siting decisions. Doing so centralizes the land use elements of energy siting and creates a consistent approach for developers to follow when proposing to site a new project that has a statewide benefit. It also enables EFSC to resolve conflicts between state and local priorities and allow a project to move forward when it determines there is a broader public/statewide benefit. SB 1034 puts this traditional and well-understood process at risk and is inconsistent with recent efforts to review and streamline energy siting to ensure Oregon meets its energy needs and policies.

Why Would SB 1034 Be Harmful?

- Introduces additional delays - permitting energy facilities in Oregon can take years and if passed, SB 1034 will require developers to navigate conflicting jurisdiction regulations and increased legal disputes over inconsistencies between state and local requirements.
- Hamstrings the state's ability to consider a project with a holistic and statewide lens.
- Disincentivizes energy development in Oregon by further complicating an already challenging permitting landscape.
- Removes EFSC's ability to resolve competing interests and jurisdictional conflicts.

What is the Current Practice?

EFSC currently coordinates with local jurisdictions through a process that balances state-level energy goals with local land use planning requirements, through holding public meetings and hearings where local governments and communities comment about land use concerns. Local governments have opportunities to submit official comments and their input is considered in EFSC's final decision.

EFSC has the ability to approve a project if it meets statewide land use goals and provides a broader public benefit. This provides projects with a potential pathway if there are local zoning conflicts.



Oregon
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NWGA
Northwest Gas Association

OSSIA
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