

April 1, 2025

Position on Bills at 2025 Session of Oregon Legislature:

SB 1034: Oppose



The Consolidated Oregon Indivisible Network (COIN) is a coalition of over 50 local Indivisible groups throughout Oregon that cooperate and amplify their joint efforts to advance important federal and state legislation and engage with elected officials to promote causes for the benefit of all Oregonians.

COIN opposes SB 1034, which would allow local governments to veto the siting of substantial new energy generating facilities within their jurisdictions, even if such facilities are consistent with statewide planning goals.

Under current law, the Energy Facility Siting Council (EFSC) can approve the siting of an energy facility, if it is consistent with statewide planning goals, even if a local government seeks to deny approval. EFSC has had this authority since its inception in 1975. To the contrary, SB 1034 provides that EFSC must follow the advice of a “special advisory group” established under ORS 469.480. Such group consists of “the governing body of any local government within whose jurisdiction the facility is proposed to be located.” Or EFSC must find that “The facility complies with applicable substantive criteria from the affected local government’s acknowledged comprehensive plan and land use regulations that are recommended by the special advisory group established under ORS 469.480.”

SB 1034 would reestablish the local government veto over energy facilities that prevailed before 1975. Nearly all large new energy facilities being sited in Oregon use renewable resources, such as solar energy or wind, and most of those are sited in central and eastern Oregon. SB 1034 risks that local governments there will veto the renewable projects or will not have the capacity to evaluate them accurately. Either event will stifle the implementation of renewable resources necessary for Oregon to meet its climate protection goals.

Consolidated Oregon Indivisible Network (COIN)

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