

Senate Rules Committee
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court St. NE
Salem Oregon 97301



June 5, 2025

From: Community Renewable Energy Association - CREA

Subject: SB 1034 with the -3 amendments

Honorable Chair Jama, Vice-Chair Bonham, and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to weigh in on SB 1034 relating to the process to determine energy facility compliance with statewide planning goals.

CREA is an ORS 190 intergovernmental association. Members include counties, irrigation districts, councils of government, project developers, for-profit businesses and non-profit organizations. CREA supports business and economic opportunities through renewable energy development in a competitive environment. We support creating economically and environmentally responsible electric generation within the State of Oregon.

The Energy Facility Siting Council (EFSC) job is to make a determination as to whether or not an energy facility is in compliance with statewide planning goals. The other purpose of EFSC is to provide a fair and unbiased process/tribunal, where all parties have a right to participate in a given land-use proceeding. Even when the local process is used, Counties are still subject to appeal, and can have their ruling overturned.

Local discretion is a critical piece for good governance throughout our state, and it is a value that CREA has sought to promote and encourage over the years by supporting legislation to allow larger projects to be evaluated, sited and ruled on at the local level.

SB 1034 with the proposed -3 amendments would require all projects to follow local ordinances in place at the time of application or mitigate any issues between the parties and the county. While we appreciate the amendment being put forward to make the bill more feasible, we continue to have concerns are unable to support SB 1034 at this time.

Rather than creating a double-jeopardy scenario which will increase the risk of developing renewable wind and solar projects, and expanding the authority of EFSC to enforce all local ordinances, which may not even be consistent with statewide planning goals, CREA would prefer to see the strengthening of the Counties advisory role at EFSC through their siting processes. CREA would also like to see EFSC provide an explanation for why they chose to approve the project if it conflicts with local regulations. We believe the decision-making entity should give the local government a clear reason for why they are overriding the policy of the local community.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "James Williams".

James Williams
CREA Executive Director