



# Oregon

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**To:** The Honorable Ken Helm, Chair  
House Committee on Energy and Environment



### House Bill 2329

Shannon Hurn, Deputy Director for Fish and Wildlife Programs  
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

The Department appreciates the opportunity to discuss House Bill 2329 with you today. The mission of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife is to protect and enhance Oregon's fish and wildlife and their habitats for use and enjoyment by present and future generations.

HB 2329 modifies ORS 469.300 by removing most types of renewable energy projects from Energy Facility Siting Council (EFSC) jurisdiction, while allowing developers to opt in voluntarily.

Renewable energy, while vitally important to Oregon's transition to a clean energy future, is not without its local costs of wildlife habitat loss. Depending on where facilities are sited, large-scale energy projects could, for example, sever migration corridors for big game, disturb mating areas for greater sage-grouse, or remove breeding habitat for state sensitive wildlife. Well-informed renewable energy siting can avoid and minimize these types of impacts.

When the Department reviews energy projects, it strives to make recommendations that achieve no net loss in habitat, and avoid, minimize, or mitigate impacts according to the Wildlife Policy (496.012) and the Department's Fish and Wildlife Habitat Mitigation Policy (Division 415). Statewide consistency is key to meeting this goal of no net loss in habitat. The current EFSC Fish and Wildlife Habitat Standard creates statewide consistency through an explicit reference to the Department's Fish and Wildlife Habitat Mitigation Policy.

The current EFSC process also creates a consistent approach to avoiding impacts to state listed fish and wildlife species (Division 100) through its Threatened and Endangered Species Standard.

HB 2329 could create less certainty that impacts to fish and wildlife habitat will be adequately considered and addressed in the siting of renewable energy statewide. Additionally, the EFSC process allows reviewing agencies to recover their costs. If HB 2329 were to pass as written, ODFW

would experience a fiscal impact, since time spent reviewing renewable energy projects would no longer be cost-recoverable.

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