



Crook County

Community Development Department
Planning Division

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House Committee on Energy and the Environment
Chairman - Representative Ken Helm

Re: Support for House Bill 2322

On behalf of Crook County, I'd like to encourage your support for HB 2322, relating to adoption of Oregon's energy policies into statewide land use planning goals, specifically, Goal 13. Goal 13 was one of the original statewide planning goals, adopted in the 1970s, with a focus on energy conservation and efficiency. At that time, there were no state level policies designed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, address climate change impacts, or promote renewable energy development.

Local governments are responsible for implementing the State's land use program and have seen, first hand, the changing landscape surrounding renewable energy development. Commercial renewable energy facilities have been developed across the State, with over half of Oregon's thirty-six counties having reviewed applications for solar or wind energy projects. These projects will help meet Oregon's Renewable Portfolio Standards and provide "greener" energy sources.

We welcome State support for local decision-making regarding siting renewable energy projects. Counties look forward to working collaboratively with State agencies and key stakeholders to develop the next generation of Goal 13 guidance that incorporates a clear statement of the State's renewable energy policy. It is essential that the Department of Land Conservation and Development has sufficient resources to engage in a thoughtful and timely update of Goal 13. Crook County supports the State's interest in amending Goal 13 to reflect the State's current clean energy policies.

Sincerely,

Ann Beier, Director

Crook County Community Development