

HB 2560 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Agriculture and Land Use

Action Date: 04/09/19

Action: Do pass. Refer to Ways and Means.

Vote: 6-0-1-0

Yeas: 6 - Clem, Helm, McLain, Post, Smith DB, Williams

Exc: 1 - Boshart Davis

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

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Meeting Dates: 2/21, 4/9

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs the Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD) to study methods to mitigate the aesthetic impact of technology towers. Requires that the study include: an identification of impacted areas such as waterways, farm or forest lands, or tourism areas; an evaluation of how impacts in identified areas affect quality of life and tourism; the development of standards to mitigate aesthetic impacts on identified areas for adoption by planning commissions and local governments; and the establishment of a schedule for planning commissions and local governments to implement and enforce the standards by January 1, 2027. Requires DLCD to submit a progress report by September 15, 2019. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Increase in, and necessity of, technology tower structures in Oregon
- Relationship between aesthetic viewsheds and agri-tourism
- Tailoring statewide standards for technology towers to regional or county needs
- Examples of methods to make towers less conspicuous

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Communication towers are used for many types of electronic communication including radio, cellular, emergency medical services, and global positioning satellite technology. The increase in demand for all manner of wireless connectivity over the past few decades has resulted in an increase in the number of communication towers built in Oregon and across the United States.

House Bill 2560 would direct the Department of Land Conservation and Development to study methods to mitigate the aesthetic impact of technology towers.