



# STOP B2H Coalition

*"Protect Our Land, Preserve Our Heritage"*

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February 20, 2020  
Senator Michael Dembrow, Chair  
Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources  
900 Court St. NE  
Salem, OR 97301

RE: House Bill 4067A–Letter of Support

Dear Chair Dembrow, Vice-chair Olsen, and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the STOP B2H Coalition, representing over 800 members from Malheur, Baker, Union, Umatilla, and Morrow Counties, we urge your support of HB 4067A. This legislation would allow us to better represent the public in front of the Oregon Public Utilities Commission as a large out of state corporation, Idaho Power, with its partners, attempts to build a 300 mile 500 kV transmission line across Eastern Oregon with no benefit to Oregonians! To date Idaho Power has spent about 10% or \$1,000,000, of the estimated \$1.2 billion cost in permitting and studies for the Federal Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and the Oregon Department of Energy Facility Siting Councils (ODOE-EFSC) siting process.

We are the only organization giving voice to the landowners and communities that will be impacted by this transmission line. Our work has been professional and technical; and we believe that we have substantively [contributed to the dockets](#) in meaningful ways. We have been able to raise \$30,000 with over 40,000 volunteer hours spent organizing communities so we can represent our fellow east Oregonians' interests. But this is a mere pittance to the economic muscle that these corporations bring to bear on our sparsely populated counties whose voices often go unheard. The cost of this transmission line will go into the rate base of most Oregonians since PacifiCorp and BPA are partners. This legislation would give us leverage to minimize the rate impact on certain communities and the intervenor fees would allow us to raise more money for proper representation. As you know the public and legal process usually denies meaningful access because one does not have enough money to hire proper expertise to navigate the complex bureaucracies. This often is a David and Goliath story as money talks. However, an organized public, helped by this legislation, can bring reason to a process dominated by monopolies with deep pockets.

Our Coalition was intimately involved in SB 978 as it worked to reform the utility regulatory environment and implement an ombudspersons office in the OPUC to help group like us. Unfortunately the funding didn't materialize. We also were on Senator Olson's workgroup several years ago as he looked into how the ODOE did business. I mention these to demonstrate that we are concerned about our energy policies and are working to have our voices heard. Therefore, we ask that you support HB 4067A.

Thank you  
Jim Kreider Co-Chair, STOP B2H Coalition