

March 25, 2021

The Honorable Pam Marsh  
Chairman, House Committee on Energy and Environment  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301

RE: House Bill 3181 – Letter of Opposition

Dear Chair Marsh,

PacifiCorp, Portland General Electric (PGE) and the Oregon Rural Electric Cooperative Association write today in opposition to House Bill 3181 and the additional requirements that would be placed on utilities large and small, urban and rural.

While we understand proponents' visual concerns regarding paint markings on sidewalks, they are an essential part of conducting critical work safely. The durability needed to withstand weather, traffic and typical construction activity at a worksite dictates the necessity for paint standards. Oregon law currently requires paint markings to last 45 days to protect underground facilities and prevent public exposure.

We are open to a collaborative approach working with the Oregon Utility Notification Center to address the specific paint marking issues raised, namely how long paint will last. Protecting underground facilities and keeping the public safe remains at the forefront, but no one wants to see paint used that cannot be removed after a reasonable amount of time.

We look forward to a continued conversation with proponents.

