

Regarding HB 2603

I believe it is a good idea for developers to be required to provide financial assurance that they will remove their infrastructure once they quit using it. I find it very frustrating, however, and do not trust that this bill will actually be enforced. The same requirement exists for transmission lines and the Oregon Department of Energy is required by statute to provide this protection for electric consumers, taxpayers and landowners, but they are unwilling to do so. I am currently involved in a contested case because the Oregon Department of Energy is only requiring a \$1.00 bond to provide for the restoration of the site and removal of the Boardman to Hemingway transmission line in the event there is a fire, the company goes bankrupt, or for some other reason abandons the transmission line. Given that the contested case process is being controlled by the Oregon Department of Energy and every request for discovery to document the lack of justification for any of the decisions being made have been denied, it is clear that I will lose. Absent appeal to the Oregon Supreme Court, the agency will provide this as just another benefit to Idaho Power. When the agencies responsible for assuring the statutes are complied with fail to do so, deny the public access to a legitimate Contested Case process and no one holds them accountable for meeting the requirements of the statutes, passing bills such as this is only an exercise in generating paper. Unless the Secretary of State and Attorney General step up to the plate and actually address agencies who ignore statutes, bills being passed mean nothing.