

LYNN P. FINDLEY
District 30



Bill Hansell
District 29

OREGON SENATE

Dear Chair Marsh and Members of the House Energy & Environment Committee:

Combined, our districts represent the entirety of eastern Oregon. Idaho Power Company provides power to fewer than 20,000 residents of Oregon, all of whom live in our districts. We are opposed to House Bill 2143 for the following reasons:

- The passage of House Bill 2143 would roughly triple the fees associated with the relicensing of the Hells Canyon Complex, thus causing fees for their services to be passed onto their Oregon consumers and our constituents.
- The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has demonstrated their desire in raising revenues by introducing this bill, however this bill inequitably places the economic burden on the backs of our constituents in eastern Oregon.
- Many of the consumers who live in the affected areas earn less than Oregon's median household income. Passing this bill will result in hundreds of thousands of dollars in increased fees that would ultimately be passed on to our constituents.
- The events of the past year have hit our local economies incredibly hard. After the COVID-19 pandemic hit, the state acted swiftly to ensure that lower income electric consumers received energy bill assistance. We should be shifting our focus on economic recovery rather than raising revenue for a state agency on the backs of some of the most vulnerable communities in Oregon.

Currently, Idaho Power consumers in Oregon are already paying higher rates than their consumers living in Idaho. Additionally, these consumers who live in Oregon are also paying significantly higher rates than consumers of Harney Electric Co-Op and those associated with the Port of Morrow. Passing House Bill 2143 would make it increasingly more difficult for our constituents to make ends meet and keep the lights on in their homes.

Additionally, the Oregon Irrigational Pumpers Association estimates that the fee increases proposed in House Bill 2143 would increase costs on farmers in excess of \$5M per irrigation season. Raising rates on farmers again has consequences that will cause the price of goods and services to raise, forcing all Oregonians to pay even higher amounts for the food grown in eastern Oregon.

Please oppose House Bill 2143.

Respectfully,

Lynn P. Findley

Bill Hansell

Email: Sen.LynnFindley@OregonLegislature.gov
Email: Sen.BillHansell@OregonLegislature.gov