

The system is not admitting testimony regarding the work session scheduled to Reduce the number of members required for a quorum on EFSC which is occurring today, so I am submitting this as it relates to the makeup of commission membership. It is clear that currently commission members are chosen who do not represent the diversity of Oregon Citizens and their opinions. For example, The statute requires the governor to appoint new Energy Facility Siting Council members after they have served two terms. Until the governor meets that commitment, it is not appropriate to reduce the quorum. It only serves the purpose of "stacking the deck" against the economically disadvantaged citizens of this state. Hanley Jenkins finished his second term on the EFSC in December. He continues to appear and vote on siting issues and has not been replaced. Neither has a replacement been made to the position that has been open since 2019. When Mr. Jenkins was placed on the EFSC, the Senate Committee received 33 pages of objections from the public regarding his questionable ethics and the inappropriate nature of him participating on this committee. The current chair of EFSC works for the IBEW 125 electricians union. Reducing the membership would have the impact of having only 3 legitimate members voting on energy siting in Oregon. Arguments regarding the difficulty of filling positions on this committee have no merit. The reason it is difficult to fill the positions is not due to the work involved. It is due to the fact that the public has become increasingly hostile due to the actions of the Oregon Department of Energy and the recommendations they make and a failure of the governor to make timely appointments. Just last week, every request for the Oregon Department of Energy and Idaho Power to be required to provide documentation (under discovery) regarding their decisions regarding multiple topics such as noise, fire hazard, wildlife impacts, etc. were denied.

The issue that needs to be addressed is assuring that committees represent a diversity of knowledge, backgrounds and who represent the breadth of diversity of the the citizens and that at least one member represent the need to address environmental justice.