

With five (5) lay people making decisions that have a long-term impact on the people and resources of the State of Oregon, there are already hundreds of examples of poor decisions being made. This will only get worse with allowing only four (4) lay people to make the decisions. An example that I am involved with is the fact that the Energy Facility Siting Council is claiming that there will be "no significant impact" to the National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center in Baker City by running a transmission line within less than 150 feet of the boundary of this National Historic Site and crossing the entire viewshed. This protected area provides the public, from across the nation and the world, a visual experience that the early settlers experienced as they traveled along the Oregon Trail. Not only are the wagon tracks located here, but I believe the only location where they are well preserved and visible. Visitors from around the world walk the paths alongside this historic trail by the thousands. The site has averaged 60,000 visitors per year since it's opening and, according to 2019 reports, 83% of the visitors are from areas of the US outside Washington, Idaho, California, Utah or Oregon and 7% are from outside the US. There can be no doubt that this center provides an important income stream to the entire State of Oregon and, yet, the legislature is allowing five (5) people (with no required knowledge) to make decisions that will destroy the historical significance of a site that was developed with over \$10 million dollars of public and private funding. Do not do the citizens and resources of this State the disservice of reducing the number of unqualified decision-makers to only four (4) lay people with no expertise and no required knowledge to make these very important decisions. Five (5) are creating enough damage.