



## Please Support HB 3179A!

HB 3179A helps to streamline the process of siting renewable projects in Oregon, making it easier so that Oregon can realize the economic development benefits of renewable development, and not see those projects move to other states.

HB 3179A does two things:

1. Allows more projects to be approved at the county level, instead of at the state level
2. Require that the Oregon Department of Transportation and counties fairly consider renewable projects when reviewing siting requests in the right-of-way

### Allowing counties to approve larger projects:

In 2019 the Legislature passed a bill to increase the size of projects that can be approved at the county level, instead of at the state level, through the Energy Facility Siting Council. Counties have had great success since then in permitting larger projects. Getting projects approved at the county level is often preferable – the state process takes longer, is more costly, and does not have the same level of local control. The county process provides greater opportunity for local participation in siting decision-making.

Because counties have been successful, it makes sense to increase the size of projects counties can approve. HB 3179A increases the sizes of projects that counties can approve but *keeps in place all existing requirements regarding land-use and wildlife*. In addition, any project can be permitted through the state – that option remains in place.

### Requiring ODOT and counties to treat renewables the same as utilities:

Current law allows ODOT and counties to permit utilities to use the right-of-way for their equipment, but the definition of utility facility is too narrow. Renewable facilities have run into difficulties with requests to place transmission lines in the right-of-way.

HB 3179A asks that ODOT and counties “not discriminate against or favor a renewable energy facility” to give renewables a fair review.

Please vote “yes” on HB 3179A.

From the Desk of Representative Ken Helm HD 27

House of Representatives  
Chief Clerk's Office  
*Ken Helm*

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