



GALLATIN POWER PARTNERS

March 28, 2023

Chair Helm and members of the Committee:

My name is Jeff Fox, and I am the Vice President of Land and Community Affairs with Gallatin Power Partners, a renewable energy and transmission development company based in Bozeman, Montana.

It is my pleasure to recommend House Bill 3181 for your consideration and approval.

House Bill 3181 continues a critically important discussion of where and how to site energy facilities in Oregon to meet the state's energy goals. Without a sustained effort to continue the discussion, Gallatin Power fears that the state invites additional conflict and risks falling further behind in its needs for transmission development and the longer-term energy resource development the state requires. The bill, while necessary, however should not be viewed as an acceptable alternative to addressing the immediate need to provide more certainty in siting solar facilities on agricultural land, as found in House Bill 3180.

Gallatin Power supports a continued process to find workable siting solutions, meaningful compromise and above all, progress on Oregon's energy goals. The process within House Bill 3181 is well designed and the funding for local governments and tribal nations is necessary to properly equip stakeholders to meaningfully engage in the proposed process. Gallatin Power further supports the use of third-party contractors to assist in meeting facilitation, process development and technical assistance, and would like further assurances that such contractors will not serve the agenda of any stakeholder, agency, or organization, except that of the State as expressed in the enacted energy goals of Oregon.

We urge the Committee to support House Bill 3181.

Respectfully submitted by,

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