

Submitter: Christine Golightly

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment

Measure: HB3179

Chair Sollman and Committee Members:

I previously submitted, on behalf of the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission (CRITFC), short testimony directing you to the 2022 Energy Vision for the Columbia River Basin (www.critfc.org/energy-vision/). I would like to take this additional opportunity to point you specifically to sections of that document and our related concerns with HB3179. I am also uploading, in separate testimony, the Executive Summary to the 2022 Energy Vision for your convenience.

The 2022 Energy Vision was developed in response to and addresses the multiple critical issues facing the Pacific Northwest. Critical among these is that without proper integration and siting, renewable resources can make things worse for Columbia River salmon and other tribal resources.

A major theme of the 2022 Energy Vision is to ensure that renewable resources, in combination with increased storage, reductions in peak demand, and increased energy efficiency, provide clean, adequate, reliable, and affordable electricity, support the restoration of healthy, harvestable salmon populations, and prevent future damage to salmon and steelhead and other tribal resources caused by the electrical system. The Vision provides 43 Recommendations that together call for a holistic approach to addressing the region's energy needs.

Recommendation 31 of the 2022 Energy Vision recommends the timely development "a comprehensive plan for siting renewable resources and transmission lines that builds in efforts currently being developed in the states." CRITFC is concerned that HB3179 will provide for additional solar development without a comprehensive renewables siting plan and supports the development of such planning at a State level.

CRITFC similarly supports, consistent with the 2022 Energy Vision, regional energy planning and the development of an Oregon Energy Strategy that looks holistically at the energy needs of the region and the best mix of solutions to address these needs. While solar development will undoubtedly play a major role in Oregon's strategy, we are concerned that HB3179 may be putting the horse before the cart when a broader analysis of regional needs and solutions is warranted.

Related concerns with HB3179 include:

- The seeming focus of the Bill and county interests on high value farmland and

productive soils. Tribal interests and resources extend onto “lesser” valued lands.

- Consistency and adequacy of tribal consultations by counties and review of tribal interests, including cultural and fish and wildlife resources.
- Cumulative impacts to resources and lack of programmatic review.

It is our understanding that the current county solar permitting process has not been analyzed so we cannot speak to the current adequacy of the process and, it follows, the expansion of such.

The Energy Vision recognizes that the tribes’ goals, including siting, must be addressed simultaneously and not independently. Failure to do so may result in unnecessary delay and contentiousness among the involved sovereigns.

Thanks you,
Christine Golightly
Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission