

Clean Energy For Oregon

We see the future. It's green.



VOTE YES ON HB 4090

What is HB 4090?

Oregon faces a critical juncture in its energy policy and land use planning. Renewable energy projects proposed on federal lands require permits with significant and comprehensive review under federal standards, including the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The Oregon Energy Facility Siting Council (EFSC) also requires a state site certificate for the same facility. HB 4090 seeks to clarify that an EFSC certificate will not be required for a renewable energy facility or transmission line proposed wholly on federal lands that already undergo the burdensome federal process.

Are EFSC and NEPA Redundant?

NEPA assesses the environmental effects of proposed actions on federal lands. **NEPA procedure includes public, local, state, federal, and tribal input and considers a wide range of environmental impacts, including those on land, water, wildlife, and cultural resources, among others.** Federal review also requires compliance with other federal statutes, regulations, and land management plans which, along with NEPA, govern all aspects of renewable energy facility siting. EFSC requires a state site certificate for the same facility that looks at the same issues. By requiring projects on federal lands to undergo additional state-level review, Oregon adds a layer without necessarily providing additional environmental protections.

What Benefits Will HB 4090 Provide?

HB 4090 will reduce regulatory burdens, and promote a more streamlined approach to renewable energy project development. HB 4090 also de-risks a major logjam and point of instability for investment given that EFSC is likely to experience a permitting backlog as dozens of new projects seek permits, increasing EFSC timelines and costs (one or more years and \$1 million dollars or more). HB 4090 will support Oregon's energy goals, attract investment, and help the state transition more swiftly and efficiently to a cleaner energy future.

How Will This Bill Accelerate Decarbonization and How Much Time Will It Save?

Some aspects of the federal process through EFSC site certification represents an unnecessary redundancy that delays construction of renewable energy projects and climate action. This bill could accelerate one to five major transmission lines and two to ten major energy projects by two to five years each, which could result in enough carbon-free energy to cover Portland's energy usage.

Why Pass HB 4090?

HB 4090 is an acknowledgment of the urgency of the climate crisis. HB 4090 will accelerate the pace of renewable energy and transmission development and bring more renewables online faster. HB 4090 reduces the time and cost of project approvals and allows state resources to be reallocated to areas where state oversight could offer unique value. In the context of accelerating the transition to renewable energy, such efficiency gains are crucial for meeting ambitious climate goals promptly.