



Chair Marsh, Vice Chair Levy and Levy, members of the House Committee on Climate, Energy, and Environment.

I appreciate the opportunity to address the committee this afternoon regarding House Bill 4015, a bill that would allow for standalone battery energy storage systems to be sited by the Energy Facility Siting Council if either the Developer or the local government chooses to defer.

First, I would like to officially thank Chair Marsh for including Counties during the interim workgroup in discussing the purpose and potential language found in this bill. Counties greatly appreciate the opportunity to engage on this subject and weigh in from a technical standpoint how the process could or should work from our perspective.

House Bill 4015 can be broken down into 3 key sections, each of equal importance. First is a definition of a Battery Energy Storage System. The second, states a separate site certificate is not required for a Battery Energy Storage System if “such related or supporting facilities are addressed in and are subject to a site certificate for another facility.” And finally, the ability for a developer or a local government to pass the application on to the Energy Facility Siting Council (EFSC) if either party believes they need to be the regulatory authority deciding on the project.

As of 2020, Oregon has met less than 10% of its electricity demand through renewable energy projects. The currently constrained transmission / energy systems in Oregon need additional storage to achieve not only the goals of today, but also achieve the goals of tomorrow.

Counties can play an integral role in achieving these goals and, through the passage of House Bill 4015, Oregon’s Energy Facility Siting Council can as well.

We look forward to partnering with the state to ensure Battery Energy Systems are not only sited, but operational.

The Association of Oregon Counties is in support of HB 4015 and urge this committee’s passage.

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