

February 12, 2024

Oregon State Legislature
House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water

Regarding: Support for HB 4090

Dear Chair Helm and Members of the Committee:

My name is Randy Hardy and I am the former Bonneville Power Administration (“BPA”) Administrator from 1991 to 1997, and the former Chief Executive Officer of Seattle City Light from 1984 to 1991. I have remained active on energy and transmission issues and have been principally engaged in advocating for solutions to the Pacific Northwest’s particularly challenging transmission constraints. This has included direct advocacy with BPA and numerous related proceedings and workshops regularly over the past years to support diverse clients and to address regional energy and transmission needs.

I support this bill concept to streamline permitting of renewable energy facilities on federal lands. This is a simple, common-sense solution that will have material benefits to accelerating timelines, especially for transmission lines, which is a key constraint to both decarbonization and serving key energy needs in the region. There are few practical solutions to address these challenges and I would commend the State of Oregon in doing its part to ensure that it does not unnecessarily add to the long, challenging, and robust federal permitting processes applicable to energy facilities on federal land.

In the future, I recommend considering expanding this concept to include other select cases beyond wholly federal land projects to extend these benefits beyond the targeted, but useful cases under the current bill.

Sincerely,

Randy Hardy