

Submitter: Les Poole

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment

Measure: HB4015

Like many others, I found out about this bill at the last minute. Submitted the following testimony on OLIS:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on HB-4015. HB-4015 has been presented as an innocuous act to award the Oregon Energy Siting Council authority for locating industrial battery storage facilities.

There are many assumptions and unanswered questions regarding the viability and safety of placing toxic batteries on our lands. The Siting Council has a history of approving large projects that have underperformed and/or created unacceptable environmental impacts. Approval of HB-4015 would invite both practical and legal battles. (See 1000 Friends vs Jackson County)

The promoters of this legislation and the Siting Council apparently believe the need for this legislation is justified because solar facilities will be approved on thousands of acres of farmland, much which is zoned EFU. It's a legally flawed concept that defies the spirit and purpose of the Oregon Land Use Plan.

The Siting Council is currently embroiled in a legal challenge in Umatilla County for disregarding a local ordinance that requires setbacks for transmission lines and other energy infrastructure. (The Nolan Hills Transmission Project)

I have professional experience in material handling that specifically involved industrial batteries. One unanswered question is "What will be done with massive batteries after their lifespan?" Where will they be stored, and what risks are there in transporting them? Will another situation occur where there's a lack of a permanent storage facility, reminiscent of the Umatilla Ordinance Depot and Yucca Mountain / Hanford nuclear waste depositories?

HB-4015 has far reaching impacts and too many unanswered questions. It's clearly premature and should not be approved in the Short Session. Please do not vote to move the bill forward.

Les Poole
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