

Testimony in SUPPORT of HB 2135

Before the House Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water Committee

By: Dave Hunnicutt, Representing Amarok

Please **SUPPORT HOUSE BILL 2135** which makes a small technical fix to correct a language error regarding the installation of battery-charged fences on commercial and industrial properties. The 2022 legislature adopted HB 4027 (53-1 House, 27-1 Senate) with the intent to allow fence installation on property used for commercial and industrial uses but NOT on property zoned to allow residential uses. Modern zoning allows residential uses in most commercial and some industrial use zones. This made the bill unworkable in most cities. HB 2135 simply corrects that language to clarify this intent and applicability to businesses with a commercial and industrial use.

Background on House Bill 4027 passed in 2022:

HB 4027 (now ORS 195.870) authorized stringent standards for local permitting of battery-charged fences and streamlined the process for permitting and registering fences to allow businesses to protect their assets and property in a timely manner. The fences are used by commercial and industrial businesses that have inventory or equipment which must remain outdoors at night. Use of the fence has proven to significantly reduce theft and vandalism, allowing the business to remain viable and thrive in its existing location.

All battery-charged fences must be installed following the most stringent guidelines as described by the International Electrotechnical Commission, helping businesses secure their assets safely and effectively.