

## **Testimony in Support of HB 3171 from Representative Bobby Levy**

Dear Chair Lively, Vice-Chair Gamba, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Bobby Levy and I am the State Representative for House District 58, which includes Umatilla, Union, and Wallowa Counties.

I am testifying today to express my strong support for HB 3171, which strengthens Oregon's commitment to energy resilience by improving county energy planning and extending crucial grant funding for local preparedness efforts. Rural communities, in particular, stand to benefit from these improvements, as they are often the hardest hit by power disruptions and have the fewest resources for energy resilience planning.

This bill ensures that counties have the tools and funding necessary to develop comprehensive energy resilience plans that address short-, medium-, and long-term power outages. By refining the requirements for these plans, HB 3171 helps counties identify critical infrastructure needs, prioritize resilience investments, and create strategies for maintaining essential services during grid disruptions. In rural areas, where access to alternative energy sources may be limited, this kind of planning is vital to protecting public safety and economic stability.

Additionally, HB 3171 extends the timeline for grant funding that counties can use to develop these energy resilience plans. This continued financial support is critical, as many rural counties lack the staffing and resources to undertake this work on their own. By ensuring access to grant funding, the bill allows local governments to create realistic, actionable plans that strengthen their energy security without placing additional strain on already limited budgets.

Energy resilience is not just a matter of convenience—it is a matter of public health and safety. Rural Oregonians rely on consistent energy access for medical care, emergency services, and daily life. HB 3171 provides a practical, well-supported approach to ensuring that all counties, regardless

of size or location, can prepare for and respond to power outages effectively. I urge your support for this bill to protect Oregon's communities and strengthen our statewide energy resilience efforts.