



**Testimony in Support of Oregon House Bill 2375**  
**Submitted by Friends of the Columbia Gorge**  
**February 11, 2025**

Dear Committee Members,

Friends of the Columbia Gorge strongly supports House Bill 2375, which requires wind energy developers to apply for and, if approved, install light-mitigating technology systems on wind energy facilities within 24 months.

Friends of the Columbia Gorge strongly supports the transition to renewable energy as part of broader efforts to combat climate change. However, this transition must be undertaken responsibly, ensuring that large-scale energy projects do not undermine the conservation values of Oregon. HB 2375 strikes this balance by requiring the implementation of mitigation measures that align wind energy development with Oregon's environmental and scenic protection priorities.

In addition to preserving the state's visual character, reducing light pollution benefits local communities. Residents of Oregon have expressed concerns about the persistent glow of wind turbine lights at night, which disrupts rural character and diminishes property values. Additionally, dark sky tourism is a growing economic driver, attracting visitors who seek out places where they can experience unspoiled night skies. Implementing ADLS will help support these local economic opportunities.

HB 2375 provides a reasonable and achievable path forward. By requiring developers to apply for light-mitigating technology with the Federal Aviation Administration and install it within 24 months of approval, this legislation ensures timely action while allowing for proper regulatory coordination. Importantly, similar policies have been successfully adopted in other states, demonstrating both the feasibility and effectiveness of these requirements.

Friends of the Columbia Gorge urges the committee to pass HB 2375 to protect the scenic integrity of the State, support responsible renewable energy development, and enhance quality of life for local communities. By adopting this bill, Oregon can demonstrate leadership in harmonizing clean energy expansion with environmental stewardship.

Friends of the Columbia Gorge ("Friends") is a non-profit organization with approximately 5,000 members. Friends is dedicated to protecting and enhancing the scenic, cultural, recreation, and natural resources of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area.



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Thank you for your time and consideration. We respectfully request your support for HB 2375.

Sincerely,  
Renee Tkach  
Conservation Director  
Friends of the Columbia Gorge