

Chair Sollman Vice-chair Brock Smith members of the committee, For the record, I am Union County Commissioner Paul Anderes. I am also Co-chair of Eastern Oregon Counties Association, EOCA Represents 16 Counties East of the Cascades. SB 1034 is a priority of EOCA and I am here today to express EOCA's support.

1034 is critical in addressing a growing concern regarding the Energy Facility Siting Council (EFSC) and its recent trend of overriding local land use plans and regulations. Particularly in Eastern Oregon, communities are witnessing the EFSC approve energy projects that do not align with local standards—leading to significant concerns about local control and governance.

SB 1034 reinforces the original intent of Oregon's land use laws, which emphasize local involvement in decisions that impact communities. By mandating that EFSC comply with local land use plans, SB 1034 restores the balance of power between local governments and the state, ensuring that communities have a say in the energy projects that affect their land, resources, and future.

As we transition toward renewable energy, it is essential that these projects are sited in a way that respects the local communities. SB 1034 puts control back in the hands of local authorities.

I urge you to support SB 1034 and help protect local control over land use decisions. Thank you.