

House Committee on Climate, Energy, and Environment
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court St. NE
Salem Oregon 97301



March 27, 2025

From: *Community Renewable Energy Association - CREA*

Subject: *Testimony in support of HB 3874*

For the record, my name is James Williams, I'm a County Commissioner in Lake County Oregon, and Executive Director of CREA - Community Renewable Energy Association. I am here today on behalf of CREA, in strong support of **HB 3874**, as it would increase the threshold for siting and approval at the local level for a wind energy facility, from 50 megawatts to 100 megawatts.

Because of the relatively small footprint of the turbines and the ability to work around the structures themselves, landowners have found advantages to wind generation. Specifically for farmers, wind generation enables them to capitalize on an economic opportunity, while maintaining the overall productivity of their lands. They're even more able to diversify and make improvements throughout their operation due to the alternative funding stream.

Over just the last decade, we've seen dramatic improvements and strides in wind energy, as the technology continues to improve. Wind turbines range in capacity, older turbines were more commonly from .66 MW - 1.5 MW capacity, but today larger turbines are used and can have 4.3 MW capacity or higher per tower.

Counties and local governments have seen these kind of applications for years now and are familiar with the process. As both the Executive Director of CREA and a County Commissioner, I've always advocated for local control. Counties know their communities best, and that they should be able to make these decisions at the local level. Especially when the rapid improvements of technology has more than tripled the MW that can be generated on the same plot of land in a generally short period of time

In Sherman County, you could be looking at a project generating 200 MW: 54 Turbines, on less than 40 acres of combined land, and that's including roads, office buildings and substations.

CREA believes that the minimum size for a wind energy facility before it is required to obtain a site certificate from the EFSC - Energy Facility Siting Council, should be increased from the 50-megawatt threshold currently in statute, to 100 megawatts. To be clear, this allows the developer to choose to go to a county for siting and it allows the county to decide if it wants to take that on. If one of the parties does not want to, the project will go

through EFSC. This bill will allow local governments to continue to represent their communities directly, as well as relieve undue pressure from EFSC.

I appreciate the time and hope that HB 3874 will move forward with your support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "James Williams", enclosed within a light blue oval border.

James Williams
CREA Executive Director