

Submitter: Denice Searcy
On Behalf Of: Stop State Overreach in Local Matters
Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1034

YES on SB 1034

SB 1034 will allow more local control by removing (required by the statewide planning goals) to recommended by the special advisory group established under ORS469.480 which will take into consideration all local ordinances and county laws. This bill is needed to direct court decisions for local control and not bind rule counties into a law that has adverse effect on local people.

SB 1034 is critically important because it reaffirms the principle that when a county identifies applicable land use standards in its comprehensive plan and development code, the Energy Facility Siting Council (EFSC) shall apply them. Local governments, particularly in rural counties, must retain their authority to regulate land use in a way that aligns with the needs, priorities, and concerns of the local community. EFSC does not have supersiting authority. It is not the role of the state to impose its will on local communities in a way that undermines local control. The EFSC has a recent trend of overriding local land use plans and regulations, particularly in Eastern Oregon and Umatilla County. 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, and by mandating that EFSC comply with local land use plans restoring the balance of power between local governments and the state. By following the local land use codes, this basically fixes a loophole that EFSC found and has decided to use in order to thwart local codes throughout the state.

Safeguard Oregonians by passing SB 1034. Thank you.