

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

April 01, 2025

RE: SB 1034 OPPOSED

Dear Chair Sollman, Vice-Chair Brock Smith, and members of the committee,

The Hilderbrand family has been farming in Sherman County since the late 1800's and continues to this day. While I farm, I also own and operate a wind turbine project (6 turbines / 9 MWs) on our farm. And the planning process has commenced for 3 MW of solar generation facility with the battery storage that will be integrated with my wind turbines. I am familiar with and have participated in the Oregon EFSC process and the Conditional Use Permitting process at the county level.

Our farm does not have the benefit of irrigation, nor does it have the natural precipitation as many other areas in Western and Eastern Oregon. Our area averages 8-10 inches of precipitation yearly. Therefore, we are limited to soft white winter wheat production on a summer fallow basis, i.e. one crop every two years. The wheat is sold almost exclusively to Asia. Where we are under increased competition with the emergence of the BRICS coalition (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa) economic bloc. With cash bids delivered to Portland of \$5.90 - \$6.10 / bushel and production costs significantly higher, the family farm on my side of the mountains is under a direct threat to survive.

I appreciate the concern Senator Nash has, as do I, for maintaining agricultural production. However, for myself and other Eastern Oregon farmers who want to diversify with renewable energy SB 1034 cuts off alternatives to us. SB 1034 creates an additional review committee. This allows the local county committee, without a clear set of instructions, to have a second bite of the permitting apple that will be highly subjective. We are opposed to SB 1034.

SB 1034 further solidifies, as many in Sherman County perceive, a continuing "taking" of our land by the Oregon legislature. As farmers we know how we can utilize our land to its most productive potential and preserve the land's agricultural productivity for future generations with renewable energy. SB 1034 just adds additional roadblocks to our paths to diversify in an already difficult process.

Thank you for the opportunity and I and others look forward to resolving Oregon's energy crisis. Just let us. Please do not allow SB 1034 to proceed.

Regards



Ormand Hilderbrand