

Submitter: Susan Applegate

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3917

I guardedly support the effort to address the means to protect Oregon's electric utilities, while protecting our citizens, but in this Bill HB 3917, I see there is a failure to ensure that wildfire liability protections are securely tied to measurable climate mitigation performances. We need Safe, Clean energy transmission lines and we need to protect rate payers from the growing energy costs.

I support the effort to stabilize Oregon's utility sector, but any wildfire liability fund must include clear mandates for utilities to invest in transmission, grid resilience and rapid deployment of renewable energy.

Climate change and a warming planet is driving the wildfires. Our utilities need to harden infrastructure while also providing proven measures to reduce to eliminate carbon emissions. And, our rate payers will be will to carry the burden if it is evenly shared with transparency, meeting the goals of carbon reduction targets.

As legislators consider HB 3917, they must also advance complementary policies to address energy affordability and expand transmission infrastructure to support clean energy growth.

Thank you for reading my testimony.