

County Court

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April 14, 2025

Chair Nathanson and Members of the House Committee on Revenue:

RE: HB 2725 – 2 Amendment

Gilliam County is ranked 34th by population in the State of Oregon. Beginning in 1990, our tiny county saw big business come to town with the arrival of Waste Management. Wind energy companies and solar projects followed in more recent years. Big business is mixed in with our agricultural base.


Gilliam County is no stranger to negotiating with big business. Several Strategic Investment Program (SIP) agreements have been successfully negotiated over the past several years with wind energy companies. SIP agreements have been of substantial benefit to our communities, citizens and taxing districts county-wide.

I question why the -2 Amendment re-defines “Affected Port” in a radical swing from the bill originally Introduced. Should Eastern Oregon Counties be treated differently than the rest of the State due to their geographic location? I do not believe they should. Please consider this: Treating Eastern Oregon Counties differently by defining “Affected Port” as located east of the western most dam on the Columbia River, could cause companies seeking SIP agreements to go elsewhere (West of the Western most dam on the Columbia River), because it is easier to negotiate with fewer parties.

Please make the playing field even for the counties adversely affected by HB 2725 -2 Amendment.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify today.

Sincerely,


Cris Patnode
Gilliam County Judge

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