

To Whom it Concerns,

May 8, 2025

I strenuously oppose House Bill 3681. This move to circumvent the PUC for transmission line permitting; it is a bad bill.

I currently rent farm ground and have resisted the B2H transmission line for several reasons. Structural integrity, fire concerns and environmental concerns, have surfaced in this battle to have B2H comply with and uphold standards that would protect citizens and our environment.

By shortcutting the PUC in the process of permitting transmission lines throughout Oregon is a bad move. The PUC should be fully involved and should be more robust in regulating transmission line, construction and operation; that being said it serves as a protection agency for land owners, the environment and communities that have to deal with the destructive nature of high voltage transmission lines. Please do not circumvent the PUC!! It is the PUC that should provide and direct through robust staffing the necessary analysis needed to properly decide the ultimate necessity of transmission lines.

Please do not allow the ODOE alone to be an agency to hold that much power allowing them to fully permit transmission lines. This is a bad move for Oregon because the ODOE is an agency who's energy bias is taking Oregon in the wrong direction by allowing the ODOE to have sole permitting power over transmission lines. HB 3681 short circuits some of the most protective measures that the PUC should be providing. It is true that the ODOE is promoting an energy plan that promotes renewables in a manner that is unsustainable and will leave Oregon paying extremely high rates for electricity and setting the stage for scarcity of electricity among the citizens!! This is making Oregon a state; which at one time had an energy surplus to provide incentive for farms and businesses to compete in the global market. Oregon may soon be a State that cannot compete to provide goods and services for profit and for ultimately creating high paying jobs.

I fear that the ODOE is biased to a point where they over utilize transmission lines in the quest to be net zero. This over enthusiastic approach towards renewables will leave Oregon littered with transmission lines criss-crossing the state, which is absolutely the wrong thing to do. Please do not allow Todd Cornett and his crew at the ODOE to litter our state with transmission lines in a misguided effort to claim Oregon is Net-Zero.

It is the wrong thing to do which has been verified in newer studies and in fact, Bonneville power administration is already moving to a more local generation type facility utilizing nuclear mini grids to provide safe electrical power over the environmentally disastrous renewable landscape.

Lastly, this transmission line effort will create a huge fire risk across the state. Soon Oregon will look much like the Lahaina, HI fire or the LA fire. The lack of interagency cooperation between fire risk and emergency management leadership will leave Oregon burned to a crisp. Morrow County will average 4 Square Miles of burned acres per year with this kind of infrastructure that is only going to get larger. More farmland will be destroyed for many years and livelihoods stolen because of mismanagement from the ODOE.

Sam Myers

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I am willing to visit with Oregon Senators in greater detail.

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