



June 5, 2025

Senator Jama  
900 Court St, NE, S-223  
Salem, Oregon 97301

Senator Bonham  
900 Court Street, NE S-323  
Salem, OR 97301

RE: MN8 Energy Opposition to SB 1034: Relating to proposed changes to the Energy Facility Siting Council (EFSC) findings that remove a process finding a proposed facility complies with statewide planning goals

Dear Chair Jama and Vice Chair Bonham:

MN8 Energy LLC (MN8) develops, owns, and operates renewable energy generation facilities, battery energy storage facilities (BESS), and electric vehicle charging stations across the US. Our western regional office is based in Portland, Oregon where we house a team of developers, engineers, and environmental permitting specialists. We are currently developing multiple solar and BESS projects in Oregon, and our Oregon operation portfolio includes three solar generation facilities.

Our Oregon development pipeline totals 930 megawatts (MW) of solar, wind, and battery storage, and we expect this number to grow substantially in the near future. SB 1034 will add unnecessary and duplicative hurdles and costs to state permitted projects, further complicating the rigorous and more comprehensive process Oregon uses for siting renewable energy projects. SB 1034 would allow a finding by the Energy Facility Siting Council (EFSC), the state entity that permits energy projects through an extremely rigorous process, to have their finding arbitrarily reversed by a local government. This would be counter to existing state goals and other state efforts that aim to streamline permitting in the state, such as the ongoing Rules Advisory Committee (RAC) process at the Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD).

As a national developer, we prioritize markets that provide opportunities to build and construct projects timely and predictably to meet growing energy demand from our enterprise customers. MN8 intends to invest hundreds of millions and possibly billions of dollars in Oregon over the coming years – a decision that is based on both market and policy dynamics. Our efforts to put capital to work in the state has been delayed by onerous and complex state requirements. If passed, SB 1034 would compound these challenges and make Oregon a higher-risk market that is less attractive for investment.

We appreciate your consideration and look forward to working together to improve Oregon's energy reliability and affordability. Please feel free to call me for more details. I can be reached at 916-718-1178.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Steph Williams".

Stephanie Williams  
Director, Government & External Affairs

cc: Senate Committee on Rules

Renewable Northwest (RNW), Oregon Solar and Storage Industry Association (OSSIA)