

HB 4031 -2 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

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Meeting Dates: 2/3, 2/10

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure exempts an energy facility from needing a site certificate from the Energy Facility Siting Council (EFSC) if the energy facility produces power from a renewable energy source, construction begins on or before December 31, 2028, and qualifies for certain federal renewable energy tax credits. Takes effect on the 91st day following adjournment sine die.

- *FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, but no statement issued yet*
- *REVENUE: May have revenue impact, but no statement issued yet*

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- County renewable energy facility siting process
- Potential impact of renewable energy facilities on farmland

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-2 The amendment modifies the qualifications of a facility to be exempted from needing a site certificate from EFSC under ORS 469.320.

- *FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, but no statement issued yet*
- *REVENUE: No revenue impact*

BACKGROUND:

In October and November 2025, Governor Kotek issued two executive orders relating to supporting the state's development of clean energy.

Executive Order (EO) 25-25 explicitly targets accelerating wind and solar energy development before federal clean energy tax credits are eliminated. ODOE and EFSC are directed to "identify process changes within existing statutory authority that...would be of greatest assistance to meeting the deadline for federal tax credits and determine the feasibility of making those changes consistent" with EO 25-25.

EO 25-29 related to "reducing greenhouse gas emissions and advancing the state's clean energy future." It declares that reliable clean energy and related infrastructure is necessary for enabling sustained economic growth and to meet rising energy demands. In part, EO 25-29 directs executive branch agencies to support investment in and deployment of clean electricity infrastructure. It also directs agencies to take actions to "develop and implement a coordinated, proactive approach to streamline land use and environmental reviews, siting and permitting, and interconnection processes for clean energy projects, energy storage, and associated transmission and distribution infrastructure." ODOE, the Oregon Departments of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and the Geology and Mineral Industries (DOGAMI), and the Oregon Public Utility Commission (PUC) are specifically tasked with "evaluating and recommending actions to update renewable energy siting and permitting processes."

In November 2025, the Oregon Department of Energy published its Oregon Energy Strategy. Its clean electricity pathway for the state to take to achieve its goals anticipates rapidly growing electricity demand from electrification, requiring a major expansion of transmission, generation, and distribution infrastructure to meet future needs.