



To: Chair Prozanski, Vice-Chair Thatcher, and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee

From: Jennifer Stephens, Program Manager, Regional Business Alliance

Subject: **Opposition to SB 1553**

Date: February 11, 2026

Dear Chair Prozanski, Vice-Chair Thatcher, and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony. Respectfully, while the Regional Business Alliance acknowledges an attempt to find solutions for wildfire victims, we feel SB 1553 is not the right policy and **oppose SB 1553**.

As a local business alliance working in the central Oregon tri-county area of Crook, Deschutes and Jefferson counties, our mission is to advance a collaborative legislative agenda that supports a thriving local business climate and promotes the economic vitality of central Oregon.

Economic development and infrastructure are two primary focus areas of the Regional Business Alliance. We support investments in local infrastructure as a catalyst for private development and support policies and regulatory frameworks that enable infrastructure investment to accommodate housing and job growth throughout the region.

We feel that SB 1553 would make capital investment by utilities to support infrastructure more difficult and therefore slowing progress of economic development. We are also concerned that SB 1553 interferes with ongoing litigation and the precedent this would set.

For these reasons, the Regional Business Alliance **opposes SB 1553**.

Thank you,

Jennifer Stephens
Program Manager
Regional Business Alliance