



February 10, 2026

Senator Floyd Prozanski
Chair, Senate Judiciary Committee
900 Court Street, NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Opposition to SB 1553 – Wildfire Cost Recovery

Chair Prozanski, and members of the Committee,

On behalf of Clatsop Economic Development Resources and the Astoria-Warrenton Chamber of Commerce, which serve businesses, workers, and communities across Clatsop County, we submit this testimony in opposition to Senate Bill 1553. Our mission is to strengthen local economies, support business retention and expansion, and promote long term regional resilience. SB 1553 would undermine these goals.

Rural and coastal communities rely on predictable business conditions, stable energy systems, and sustained private investment. SB 1553 creates significant financial and operational uncertainty for PacifiCorp, a key infrastructure provider and major investor in our region.

The bill adds duplicative financial burdens at a time when affordability is already a challenge. These impacts would be felt by the residents and businesses we serve. Economic development in coastal Oregon depends on continued investment in grid hardening, wildfire mitigation, transmission improvements, renewable integration, and reliability projects. PacifiCorp plays a vital role in these efforts.

By singling out one company with unique tax obligations and limits on cost recovery, SB 1553 sends a concerning message to investors about Oregon's regulatory stability. This threatens the capital needed for essential infrastructure and could slow or halt projects critical to community safety, resilience, and economic growth.

Wildfire impacts are a statewide challenge that require collaborative, comprehensive strategies involving utilities, state agencies, local governments, land managers, and community organizations. PacifiCorp has demonstrated a willingness to resolve claims and work within the legal process. SB 1553 instead adopts a punitive approach toward one company, which adds instability to both the legal system and the regional economy.

For Clatsop County businesses and workers, affordable energy, dependable infrastructure, and a predictable regulatory environment are essential. SB 1553 jeopardizes all three and creates economic consequences far beyond its intent.

We respectfully urge the committee to reject SB 1553 and pursue collaborative, forward-looking wildfire policy that supports long term economic resilience.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Kevin Leahy

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cc: Senator Kim Thatcher, Vice-Chair
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Senator James I. Manning Jr.
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