



**Southern Oregon Regional
Economic Development, Inc.**

February 11, 2026

Senate Committee on Judiciary
Oregon State Legislature
Salem, Oregon

RE: SB 1553 – Oppose

Dear Chair Prozanski and Members of the Committee,

Southern Oregon Regional Economic Development, Inc. (SOREDI) is writing to express concern with SB 1553 from an economic development perspective.

Reliable and affordable electric service is foundational infrastructure for economic growth. Major employers, manufacturers, and traded-sector businesses depend on utilities that are able to plan, finance, and invest over long time horizons. Policies that materially affect a utility's financial stability or access to capital can have downstream impacts on infrastructure investment, system reliability, and long-term costs to customers.

Southern Oregon already faces constraints related to infrastructure readiness and capacity. We are cautious about legislation that could further limit investment in grid upgrades or increase financing costs, particularly at a time when communities are working to attract and retain employers and support recovery and growth across the region.

We recognize the seriousness of wildfire risk and the need for accountability and solutions. From our vantage point, those solutions should strengthen resilience and investment rather than create uncertainty that may ultimately slow infrastructure improvements and economic growth.

Thank you for considering our perspective.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Blair Sundell', is written over a faint, larger version of the same signature.

Blair Sundell
Executive Director
Southern Oregon Regional Economic Development, Inc. (SOREDI)