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House District 58  
Capital Construction Request

Subject: Letter of Support for the Re-construction of Blue Mountain Translator District's Distribution Line Serving Critical Communications Infrastructure.

Co-Chairs Nosse and Girod, Members of the committee,

I am writing on behalf of Oregon Trail Electric Cooperative (OTEC), to express support for the reconstruction of the existing Blue Mountain Translator District (BMTD) distribution line. BMTD, a local government special district, owns and operates approximately 2 miles of underground single phase line East of Cove. OTEC has primary metering infrastructure at the current point of demarcation, and the BMTD takes ownership of the line as it heads East up Mt. Fanny, through forested private property and USFS, to a communications site. BMTD's line serves many communication facilities on top of Mt. Fanny including ODOT, OSP, OPB, Williams Gas Pipeline, and several others.

BMTD's infrastructure was put in place in the late 50s, early 60s, and is in critically poor condition. As the local electric cooperative, OTEC is regularly called on by BMTD to assist in repairing the line, often in emergency situations. With the existing line in near inoperable condition and at risk of being a safety hazard, it is critical that this line be brought up to current operating and safety standards as soon as possible. If at any point OTEC determines that the existing line is a direct safety hazard, OTEC will be forced to de-energize the line, leaving critical state infrastructure without firm utility power.

I strongly urge you to consider these points as you allocate resources for critical projects. Thank you for your attention to this important matter. I look forward to seeing the positive impact this distribution line reconstruction will continue to have on our emergency communication, preparedness, and safety throughout the state.

Sincerely,

*Patrick Collins*

Patrick Collins  
Manager of Key Accounts and Government Affairs  
Oregon Trail Electric Cooperative