

Testimony – Blue Mountain Translator District Transmission Line Project

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

For the record, my name is Bobby Levy, and I serve as the State Representative for House District 58. I'm here today in support of the Blue Mountain Translator District transmission line project in Union County.

This is, first and foremost, a public safety project.

At 7,100 feet elevation, Mt. Fanny hosts critical communications infrastructure. The existing electrical service—owned by Blue Mountain Translator District, which is a nonprofit government special district and run by an elected volunteer Board of Directors—is at risk of irreparable failure if it is not replaced in the very near future.

Without reliable, dependable power, the U.S. Forest Service communication site, Oregon State Police, Oregon Department of Transportation and local radio stations that serve as emergency alert systems are all at risk.

Mt. Fanny is the best radio site in Union County in terms of area coverage. In fact, Union County is currently pursuing engineering studies to migrate radio equipment used by 21 public safety agencies to this site to address critical coverage gaps. A primary site like Mt. Fanny requires uninterrupted commercial electrical service.

We've asked for \$840,000 from the state to re-construct the nearly 2 miles of underground single phase line that was originally constructed in the late 50s and 60s.

However, due to unknown ground conditions (it's currently covered in snow), we've built in a contingency in the ask and will return any funds not used back to the state.

Ultimately, there is no way for the special district to fund this re-construction. Users pay \$100 a year and that hardly covers maintenance. We need state investment to ensure that emergency services have reliable power and communications in an area of the state where more people watch cable television than have streaming services.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bobby Levy". The signature is fluid and cursive, with "Bobby" on the top line and "Levy" on the bottom line, both written in a single continuous stroke.