

February 12, 2026

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

RE: Senate Bill 1553 – Oppose

Chair Prozanski and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the **Umpqua Economic Development Partnership**, I am writing to respectfully oppose **Senate Bill 1553**, currently being considered in the 2026 short session. Our organization works to strengthen Oregon's economy, and this bill would negatively affect business growth, energy affordability, and long-term investment in the state.

SB 1553 would interfere with the ongoing court process through retroactive and punitive measures aimed at a single company, including duplicative financial requirements, restrictions on cost recovery, and changes to how pending litigation is handled.

From an economic development standpoint, the consequences are significant. SB 1553 would likely **weaken the utility's credit rating**, raise borrowing costs, and limit access to capital needed for grid improvements. These impacts would directly affect employers through **higher energy costs, infrastructure delays, and reduced capacity to support business expansion**. The resulting uncertainty in the energy sector would make Oregon less competitive for new investment and job creation.

Oregon needs balanced wildfire policy that supports safety, affordability, and economic stability—not legislation that increases energy costs and reduces the state's competitiveness.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to **reject SB 1553**.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Matt Kowal
Board President, Umpqua Economic Development Partnership
Umpqua Economic Development Partnership
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