

Feb. 16, 2026

Senate Energy and Environment Committee

RE: HB 4102 (DEQ 3rd Party Permitting)

Good afternoon Chair Sollman, Vice-Chair Brock Smith and Members of the Committee-

For the record, my name is Jamie Pang, and I am the Director of Programs at the Oregon Just Transition Alliance. We represent the over 20 alliance members and communities who are on the frontlines of climate change and environmental injustice.

I want to start off thanking and acknowledging Rep Dobson's office for the conversations we have had on the substantive portions of the bill on the House side, and to Senator Sollman, Golden, and Pham's offices for the conversations we've had on the Senate side. We know you all inherited some topics of discussion due to the urgency and fast timeline of short Session, and appreciate your attention. **While OJTA is currently opposed to this bill, our alliance could be moved to neutral or support of the bill, with the adoption of the -1 amendment.** On the House side at least one Climate+Energy committee member voted "not" during the work session to signal that a closer look was needed, and several other members made statements.

First, let us tell you that we understand the need to streamline DEQ's permitting process and eliminate the current backlog. **Our understanding is that DEQ has much of the authority it needs already to undergo procurement and contracting, but HB 4102 provides more structure.** If that is the case, the proposed -1 amendment does just that- it gives more structure to ensure that expedited permitting processes do not undermine the public interest.

The proposed -1 amendment is the result of narrowed conversations we have had on the House side. Specifically, I would like to speak to the public interest factors. Currently the bill only requires DEQ to consider the permitting backlog and project readiness when evaluating whether an applicant like (Intel or Amazon) gets approved for an expedited process to be able to be assigned a contract permit writer. The -1 amendment requires that an entity's history of compliance to permits and regulations be a factor in whether they get approved for this expedited process. We believe this is a commonsense, good governance criteria that truly considers the public interest. **Additionally, we must remember that current DEQ policies and practices to uphold the public interest are not enough.** We cannot assume the agency will be the same agency 10, 20, or even 50 years from now, if there were to be a leadership change, administration change, or culture change.

We also stand in solidarity with the labor standards portion of this amendment, although I will let my colleagues speak to that portion. With the amount of permit streamlining and fast tracking of development happening in Oregon, we believe that companies should be incentivized to adopt prevailing wage and good labor practices and other good governance guardrails for projects that are expedited. **We also incorporate by reference, Verde and other partner's testimony on the need to put more guardrails around public contracting and conflicts of interest.**

Again, while we recognize the pressing needs to address DEQ's permit backlog, regulatory speed must not come at the expense of integrity, accountability, or public trust.

Thank you.

Jamie Pang
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Oregon Just Transition Alliance