



May 3, 2013

The Honorable Lee Beyer  
Oregon Senate Committee on Business and Transportation  
900 Court St. NE  
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Chair Beyer:

As Executive Director of the Oregon Rural Electric Cooperative Association (ORECA), I would like to voice my strong support for House Bill 2203.

ORECA represents the state's 18 not-for-profit electric cooperatives that serve 206,000 meters with more than 30,000 miles of transmission and distribution line. Oregon's electric co-ops serve some of the most rural and remote parts of the state.

This legislation is about safety. There have been instances of Independent Power Producers locating transmission and distribution lines within utility certified service territories without notification or coordination. These so-called "orphan" lines have been built without the benefit of the utility knowing what construction standards they are built to, or any identification of who owns, operates or is the point of contact in an emergency.

The notification provisions in HB 2203 will help provide critical contact information about the entity responsible for the power line. This responsible, common-sense proposal will help maintain a safe, reliable electric power system and is the by-product of much work by Rep. Greg Smith, representatives of Umatilla Electric Cooperative, the renewables industry, and others.

We urge your support of HB 2203 and hope this proposal can continue its way through the legislative process. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Ted Case  
Oregon Rural Electric Cooperative Association